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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

TOI HEALTH+

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

SC agrees to hear Jacqueline's plea challenging May 30 order of a trial court framing PMLA charges against her in a ₹200cr laundering case, as her lawyer says actor is ready to be approver in ED case

TOI HEALTH+

STARTING TODAY,
PAGE + PODCAST

Every Wednesday, you've been reading TOI Health+. Starting today, you can also listen to it. Tune in to the TOI Health+ Podcast to catch our core team of health writers and editors take deep dives with doctors and other domain experts on everything from treating right to sleeping right to eating right, topics that go beyond what we write on the page. We will have a new episode for you every Wednesday morning, plus a nutrition power tip.

Scan the code to listen to our first episode on **'Monday Morning Blues and Social Jet Lag'**

On today's page...

- Superdrug for superbugs
- To rinse or not to rinse?

Turn to P 8

Govt raises ₹20,000cr via disinvestment, asset sale

25% Of Full-Year Target, To Partially Offset Subsidy Bill

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Over two months into the financial year, the Centre has raked in around Rs 20,000 crore from disinvestment and asset sales, pushing ahead with its strategy to raise resources through non-tax revenue route in face of the mounting subsidy bill due to the West Asia conflict. The funds raised so far are around 25% of the full-year target.

Already, the fertiliser ministry has sought doubling of subsidy in the current fiscal, budgeted at Rs 1.7 lakh crore, with govt also urging domestic players to step up fertiliser manufacturing amid rising prices. There is additional uncertainty over ship availability and several fertiliser suppliers opting out of the market.

OFFER FOR SALE

- ₹12,166cr raised through disinvestment, ₹6,367cr by way of asset monetisation
- Govt offer to **divest up to 3% in NLC India**, which saw issue subscribed 5.2x on Tuesday, **expected to mop up ₹1,260cr**
- Govt relying on offer-for-sale to raise money from Central Bank, Coal India and NHPC
- Apart from **IDBI Bank stake sale**, where process is still unclear, **not much headway** in other **strategic sale plans**

ATF prices up by 10% under new scheme

Flying is set to get more expensive, with oil marketing companies Tuesday increasing aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices by 10% under the new price-stabilisation regime. ATF prices will remain frozen at this level for three years under the new regime. Jet fuel for domestic carriers will now cost Rs 115 per litre, up from Rs 105 per litre. **P 22**

Besides, Centre has given support of over Rs 1.2 lakh crore to the oil sector, including excise cuts, to cushion the impact of the high crude prices.

▶Over ₹12k cr this yr, P 17

1 month on, 14 hostages freed in Manipur

Guwahati: Ethnic tensions fuelled by tit-for-tat abductions in Manipur's hill districts eased Tuesday after Naga groups made the first conciliatory gesture, freeing 14 Kuki hostages who had been held captive for almost a month, **reports Prabin Kalita.** But news of the breakthrough, facilitated by United Naga Council (UNC) and community leaders, was tempered by rival armed groups still keeping six abducted Naga men in captivity.

Hours after the hostage release in Senapati district, **unidentified assailants fatally shot a 45-year-old Kuki villager** – Haokhogin Lhouvum of Lasan village in Tamenglong – while he was walking to his farm.

▶CM hails decision, P 7

'AI asking kin of crash victims to waive claims before facts known'

Airline Refutes Charge By Former Guj CM's Daughter

Even as questions swirl around the investigation into the AI 171 crash on June 12, 2025, family members of some victims are also criticising its handling of the tragedy.

Radhika Mishra, daughter of former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani, who was among the 260 people killed in the crash, has alleged that Air India is asking relatives to "sign full and final settlement documents before the official investigation has concluded and before the facts surrounding the accident have been fully established," **reports Saurabh Sinha.** AI has denied the charge.

> "...Clarify whether families can receive support without sacrificing future legal rights... ensure no family feels pressured to choose between immediate financial support and the pursuit of truth —Radhika Mishra to AI

> "There is absolutely no deadline or pressure on any family or individual to accept our offer within a set timeframe... —AI's response

▶No pressure: AI, P 14

SIPRI: India may have 'deployed' 12 N-warheads

Think tank SIPRI has claimed that India may have shifted its nuclear posture to ready-to-strike by 'deploying' 12 warheads, including possibly one on an N-submarine. India so far kept warheads and delivery systems separate. The report said India's N-warheads rose to 190 from 180 as of Jan 2026. **P 15**

CJI raises threats to ex-judge with Indian envoy

CJI Surya Kant, currently in London, raised with the Indian high commissioner the issue of retired Bombay HC judge Gautam Patel being sent a threat letter and his daughter assaulted. The CJI was assured that adequate security arrangements have been put in place for Patel and his family. **P 7**

Amicus: NMC vacancies delaying med admissions

SC-appointed amicus curiae Maninder Singh has blamed persistent vacancies at National Medical Commission and govt's failure to fill key statutory posts for recurring delays in medical admissions, saying lapses have disrupted academic calendars and left students bearing the brunt of the system's shortcomings. **P 22**

MP CM revokes max-2-children norm for govt jobs

MP CM Mohan Yadav Tuesday ordered the withdrawal of a draft provision in the civil services rules prescribing a maximum of two children for eligibility for govt jobs. He also ordered the removal of the draft from the official portal. Under the MP Civil Services Rules, having more than two kids was treated as misconduct. **P 14**

Exchange-based coal trading rules notified

Govt has notified coal exchange rules, 2026, laying down a regulatory framework for setting up and operating coal exchanges that'll function on lines of power and gas exchanges, providing an electronic platform for competitive bidding and market-based price discovery, **reports Atul Mathur.** The rules provide for third-party quality certification and detailed settlement and delivery mechanisms. **P 17**

19 kids, 7 pregnant women killed in PoK firings: Intel

Amid the escalating unrest in Pakistan occupied Kashmir, an intel dossier has detailed systematic violence by Pakistani forces in PoK between June 5 and 9, noting it was the Barmang Bridge shooting that sparked the violence. Pak military, it says, targeted Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), a peaceful movement demanding economic reforms, banning it under anti-terror laws. Chaos unfolded after the assassination of JAAC leader Shahzaib Habib by the army, **reports Rajshekhar Jha.**

Official fatalities are of 11 men, but the report reveals 19 children and seven pregnant women were among those killed during that period. Pakistan has deployed 14,000 mainland troops, imposing a total communication blackout and firing live ammunition at unarmed mourners and civilian convoys. **P 18**

▶India seeks accountability for POK abuses, P 22

ED summons former Kerala CM's daughter

ED has issued summons to former Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan's daughter Veena T and eight others in connection with alleged irregularities in the transactions of Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd and its links with Veena's company, Exalogic Solutions. Sources said Veena had been asked to appear at ED's Kochi office Friday. **P 7**

▶ED raids spark fresh fight between AAP and BJP, P 22

SC uses its spl powers to quash Pocso conviction

New Delhi: Two youngsters fell in love, but the Class 12 girl filed a complaint against the youth when he refused to marry her, resulting in him being sentenced to 10 years for having physical relations with a minor. The girl married another man, who left her after three days when he came to know of her past relationship. The convict, while out on bail, reconciled with her and they decided to wed.

Given the peculiar facts of the case, Supreme Court invoked its extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 142 to quash the man's Pocso conviction and sentence, **reports AmitAnand Choudhary.**

IN THE COURTS

- In **cheque bounce** cases, HC says **default sentence** for non-payment of compensation **cannot exceed 6 months | P 6**
- Delhi court rejects bail plea of Manisha Waghmare in **NEET paper leak case**
- Firing incident: Patna court grants **interim protection from arrest to 'Khan Sir'**

▶Live peacefully, P 14

Bangalore Times

'I don't make music to chase trends or views'

RADHU MEET

NO ID? NO ENTRY!

City cracks down on underage drinking. Enforcement may be the real challenge

Talk of the Town

1 in 3

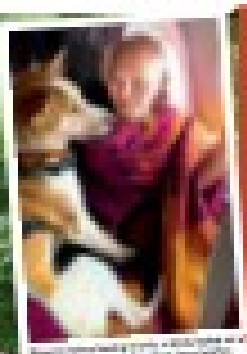
33%

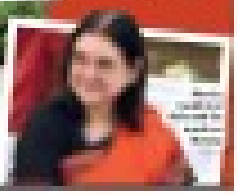
18%

'Checks have been a standard practice for years'

'We ask for and cross-check other identification if we think the ID is false'

'Aloka is proof that community dogs are guardians and protectors, not a danger'





There are thousands of Alokas across India: Ankika Shukla

Quick fix? Dust storm on B'ghatta Rd may die down, but not for long

Total Project May Cost Up To ₹100cr: Officials

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar

FINALLY: After months of complaints, BSCC has begun patchwork repairs on Bengaluru's potholed Bannerghatta Road, but comprehensive redevelopment is still in the planning stage

Repair Offers Temporary Relief

- Pothole repairs underway between Vega City Mall Junction and Arekere Junction
- Patchwork only for now; full road resurfacing remains pending
- BWSSB works cited as one reason delaying complete relaying
- ₹12.5 crore allocated by Metro authorities, but officials say it is insufficient
- Project shifted to B-Smile, which is preparing DPR for corridor redevelopment

YOU READ IT IN TOI

Bengaluru: For thousands of commuters braving potholes, craters and bone-rattling rides on Bannerghatta Road, here is both good news and a reality check. Good news, first. After months of growing public frustration, civic authorities have started repairs on one of south Bengaluru's busiest roads. Reality check: It's only patchwork; complete resurfacing appears to be nowhere in sight.

Over the past two days, Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) has been filling potholes with bitumen and tar between Vega City Mall Junction and Arekere Junction, bringing relief to motorists. This stretch is notorious for damaged surfaces and slow-moving traffic. **TOI** had highlighted this road and the sufferings of motorists and residents, including those visiting the premier Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore.

The repairs come just as Bengaluru welcomed the monsoon. If the season starts in full force, poor road conditions are expected to worsen further. Officials said the current exercise is a temporary measure aimed at making the road safer and more navigable during th "We will complete the pothole-filling process by Wednesday. There is some work pending from BWSSB, which is preventing us from taking up complete relaying of the road," a senior BSCC official explained.

But there are two questions: why can't Bannerghatta Road be asphalted for good instead of being subjected to patchwork? And will the filled-up potholes survive the rainy season?

Officials admitted that fund crunch has deterred them from resurfacing the road. "Initially, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRCL) was expected to complete the damaged portions of the road after Metro construction was over and Rs 12.5 crore is set aside for now. But the condition of the road has become so bad the amount is not sufficient to complete repairs. BMRCL had deposited the money with BSCC and told the latter to undertake repair work. How can we restore the road with that meagre amount?" asked a senior civic official.

With the broken road triggering terse reactions from the public, BSCC has transferred the proposed road development project to B-Smile (Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd), which has proposed to take up white-topping on the road and is readying a detailed project report for comprehensive redevelopment of the corridor. Officials estimate that proper road reconstruction, drainage works and white-topping along the six-lane stretch could cost between Rs 85 crore and Rs 100 crore.

> We cannot begin road restoration until the pipeline work is completed. We are not satisfied with the patchwork carried out by BWSSB so far. About 600 or 700 metres of work is still pending. Decisions on road restoration will be taken based on progress made
> **Ramesh KN** | COMMISSIONER, BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION

CET counselling put off over seat matrix

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has postponed the Common Entrance Test (CET) counselling for engineering and other professional courses because of a delay in receiving the final seat matrix and fee structure from the higher education department.

Officials said the process has been pushed back by at least three days and is likely to commence on June 13, subject to receipt of the final seat matrix. The seat matrix and fee structure have to be approved by the higher education minister. With the portfolio not allocated to any minister yet under the DK Shivakumar govt, the principal secretary will have to directly seek approval from the CM. "The department is going through the objections received for the draft seat matrix. Officials have sought an appointment with the CM and are hoping to secure approval for the matrix soon," an official said.

With the delay in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), state govt had decided to commence CET counselling, independent of the schedule for medical and dental courses.

APPROVAL AWAITED

- KEA postpones CET counselling by at least three days. It is now likely to begin on June 13, due to pending approval of engineering seat matrix and fee structure
- Karnataka set to add 5,000 engineering seats this year, with option entry to begin once final seat matrix is approved by govt

The seat matrices for other courses, including agriculture, veterinary, pharmacy, and nursing, are also expected in the next few days. However, with engineering being the biggest of all, KEA can begin the option-entry process only as soon as it gets the engineering seat matrix. "Agriculture and veterinary matrices are likely to be shared by Wednesday and pharmacy by Thursday," said the official.

As per the engineering seat draft matrix, Karnataka has 5,000 more seats this year.

2.5k IT teachers for better digital learning

The govt has converted 2,500 surplus primary school teacher posts into those of information technology teachers to strengthen computer education in Karnataka Public Schools (KPS). The move aims to provide computer education to students from classes 1 to 10 from the current academic year at 700 KPSs across the state, including 200 in Kalyana Karnataka region. The govt has issued a formal order and said separate cadre and recruitment rules will be framed for the newly created posts. The posts will have a pay scale of Rs 44,425–83,700.

Midnight quarry raid uncovers explosives

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Avalahalli police raided a granite quarry near Yarappanahalli village in the early hours of June 5 and found workers carrying out blasting. Cops found around 230 gelatin sticks and 50 detonators stored on the premises without proper safety measures. The authorities initially believed the quarry operation was illegal, but during investigation, they learned that only night-time blasting was illegal.

According to sources, head constable Rajendra N and his colleague Mani were on night patrol duty on June 4. Around 3am, they received information about blasting activities at Venkateshwara Granite Quarry near Vidhana Soudha Layout in Yarappanahalli village. The informant also told them that no permission had been obtained from the competent authority for the quarry and that explosives were stored there illegally.

The cops rushed to the quarry around 4am and found three workers — Vikas, Touhid, and Sandeep — engaged in blasting operations. When questioned, they said the explosives had been supplied by quarry owner Venkataramana Reddy and crusher in-charge Lokesh Reddy for breaking rocks and transporting them to a crusher unit. When police sought documents authorising the storage and use of explosives, the workers admitted that no such permits had been obtained from any competent authority.

In all, 230 gelatin sticks and around 50 detonators were found stockpiled on the premises without adhering to the mandatory safety protocols. The explosives were seized and police registered a case against the quarry owner, crusher in-charge, and the three labourers under Explosives Act, Explosive Substances Act and Section 288 (negligent conduct with respect to explosive substances) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

During investigation, the owner produced permits to run the quarry, but carrying out blasting at night was a violation. Notices have been served on the accused and the probe will continue, sources said.

IN THE DOCK TOI

> **Five booked** | The quarry owner, crusher in-charge and three workers have been charged under explosives laws and BNS Section 288

> **Stockpiled** | Police seized 230 gelatin sticks and around 50 detonators during the night-time blasting raid at a Yarappanahalli quarry

What are the chances that every passenger standing in a crowded bus has actually purchased a ticket for the journey? Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) data suggests the answer may not be all that reassuring. Over the past five financial years, the corporation caught more than 2.1 lakh ticketless passengers, with fare evasion showing a steady upward trend. While intensified checking drives have helped recover revenue through fines, officials believe the actual scale of ticketless travel could be far higher than what is detected, posing a persistent challenge to the cash-strapped transport utility

NO TICKET, BIG FINE
2L+ caught by KSRTC

Photo for representation

DODGERS GALORE: Officials say the true extent of fare evasion on KSRTC buses may be more than double the amount detected through ticket-checking drives

FIVE-YEAR SNAPSHOT (2021-22 TO 2025-26)

2.1 lakh	2 lakh	₹50 lakh		₹3.5 crore
ticketless passengers caught	ticketless travel cases booked	worth of tickets evaded		collected in fines

Key takeaway: Despite regular detection drives, fare evasion has steadily increased over the past five years

- Fines imposed rose by nearly **84%** between 2021-22 and 2025-26

TRENDS OVER THE YEARS

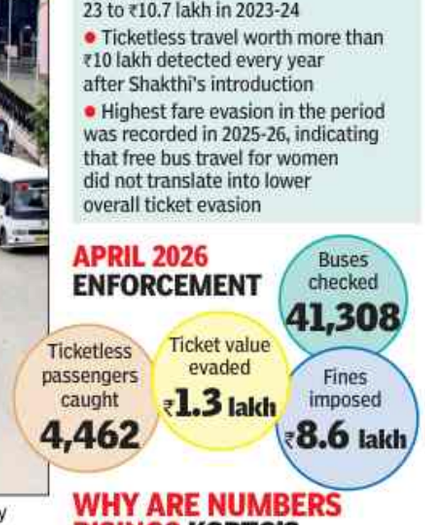
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
Cases booked	29,609	39,802	37,798	43,287	48,432
Ticketless passengers caught	32,569	45,759	39,818	45,204	48,751
Ticket value evaded	₹6.9 lakh	₹9 lakh	₹10.7 lakh	₹10.4 lakh	₹13 lakh
Fines imposed	₹50.4 lakh	₹68.8 lakh	₹62.9 lakh	₹76.6 lakh	₹92.6 lakh

Source: KSRTC | *Till March 2026

SHAKTHI SCHEME DIDN'T CURB EVASION

- Fare evasion did not decline after launch of Shakthi scheme in 2023. The evaded ticket value rose from ₹9 lakh in 2022-23 to ₹10.7 lakh in 2023-24
- Ticketless travel worth more than ₹10 lakh detected every year after Shakthi's introduction
- Highest fare evasion in the period was recorded in 2025-26, indicating that free bus travel for women did not translate into lower overall ticket evasion

APRIL 2026 ENFORCEMENT



WHY ARE NUMBERS RISING? KSRTC'S EXPLANATION

Higher ticket values: Rising fuel prices have increased fares. Each evaded ticket now represents higher monetary loss

More intensive checking: Additional inspection teams deployed; increased enforcement uncovering more violations

Peak evasion periods: Early-morning services and late-night trips, especially in rural taluks

Reality check: Unlike reserved trains, which undergo mandated ticket verification, buses face significant limitations in tracking loss of fare revenue. Officials estimate actual value of fare evasion could be more than double the amount detected through checking drives

— Text by Anush S

JP Nagar road made one-way to clear jam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Traffic police have converted a crucial stretch of 11th A Main Road in JP Nagar into a one-way street to end gridlocks at the exit of the recently opened double-decker flyover.

The move aims to streamline heavy influx of vehicles during peak hours. Prior to this modification, 11th A Main operated as a bi-directional road, leading to massive traffic snarls. Innumerable vehicles attempting to travel towards the flyover would clash with descending traffic, locking up the intersection. When motorists reach the end of JP Nagar double-decker flyover, the road splits into two primary arteries: 11th A Main and 11th B Main. The new rules alter how these roads operate:

11th A Main (one-way): Traffic is now strictly restricted to a single direction on a 90-metre stretch starting from 46th Cross intersection

Flyover exit rules: Only vehicles coming down from the flyover are permitted to enter this specific section of 11th A Main

No-entry: Motorists can no longer enter 11th A Main from the opposite direction to head towards the flyover

11th B Main (unchanged): Bi-directional vehicular movement remains unaffected on this parallel road

Dutch couple paid ₹10L to take home their memories of India

▶ Continued from page 1

The couple hoped to end their India sojourn by driving all the way from Bengaluru to the Netherlands via Nepal, Tibet, and Central Asia. "But Covid changed everything, with China closed completely to tourists, and alternative routes too complicated in terms of customs requirements," Rob said.

So, the couple packed the SUV into a shipping container along with their household belongings and sent it across continents. "The total shipping cost was around Rs 10 lakh, but it wasn't really about money. We had travelled thousands of kilometres in that vehicle across India and created so many memories with it. That made it worth bringing home," he said.

Importing an Indian-made SUV into Europe, though it was the petrol variant, was far from straightforward, as meeting local regulations required considerable effort. "Even the tyres need to meet European certification standards. By the time you replace parts and complete all the inspections, the costs can exceed the value of the vehicle itself," Rob said. He also had to secure special permission to register and drive a right-hand-drive vehicle in Europe.

The unusual sight of a former Bengaluru vehicle parked in a Dutch neighbourhood recently caught the attention of Bengaluru-based industrialist Vishnu Shankar during a visit to Amsterdam. "I was out for a walk when I noticed an Indian vehicle parked outside a house. I eventually got in touch with Rob. Hearing the story made me happy and proud. Europe is known for its automobile industry, so seeing a Bengaluru vehicle find a home there was quite special," he said.

Rob Bosgraaf with industrialist Vishnu Shankar

ONWARD

The former KA-50 SUV continues its adventures on European roads and has already completed road trips to Spain. Rob says he chose to retain the idol that came with the vehicle. "It feels like it belongs there," he said.

SWR dismisses suffocation death claim

Bengaluru: South Western Railway (SWR) has termed "false and factually incorrect" a social media claim that a passenger died of suffocation due to overcrowding on a train at Tumakuru railway station.

The claim surfaced after a viral video showed an unconscious man being carried on a stretcher at the station, with posts alleging he died in an overcrowded general compartment. SWR identified the passenger as Malthesh, 37, from Ranebennur, who was travelling with his family on 11022 Chalukya Express.

According to officials, he suffered a sudden medical emergency linked to a pre-existing condition and lost consciousness. After the train reached Tumakuru, RPF personnel provided first aid and shifted him to a govt hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. SWR said coach occupancy was well below capacity, ruling out overcrowding. TNN

KIADB drops acquisition after locals flag homes, burial sites

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: At a time when back-to-back land acquisition proposals across Bengaluru's fast-developing outskirts have left rural and agrarian communities on edge, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) Tuesday offered an unexpected reprieve to residents of Kanchugaranahalli in Bidadi hobli. It stepped back from acquiring select parcels of land earmarked for Harohalli 5th Phase Industrial Area.

The decision, taken after the high court's intervention, comes as a rare moment of relief for villagers who were locked in a prolonged legal battle to protect not just their homes and farmland, but something far more personal — resting places of their ancestors.

The denotified lands, officials confirmed, included residential structures and burial sites that villagers said were inseparable from their identity, memory and history. Harohalli 5th Phase Industrial Area, proposed in Bidadi hobli of Ramanagara taluk, forms part of the govt's broader push to expand industrial infrastructure around the city. The project was first set in motion through a preliminary notification issued in Nov 2019, covering over 1,118 acres spread across villages, including Kanchugaranahalli, Kanchugaranahalli Kaval, Mudenahalli, and Yarehalli in Harohalli region.

@BIDADI HOBLI

A final notification followed in July 2020, notifying more than 679 acres under the acquisition umbrella for industrial development. However, for several landowners, the lines drawn on govt maps cut through their lived realities — homes where families have lived for generations and sacred burial sites where their ancestors were laid to rest.

What initially began as objections soon evolved into a legal battle. Villagers approached high court, arguing that the acquisition overlooked the presence of houses, ancestral burial sites and culturally significant spaces that couldn't be reduced to monetary compensation alone. In its order dated Dec 10, 2024, the court quashed the final acquisition notification for specific survey numbers, acknowledging the concerns raised by petitioners.

That intervention became the turning point. Acting on the court's directions, KIADB officials revisited the disputed land parcels, measuring over 2.2 acres in survey numbers 29/3 and 29/6 of Kanchugaranahalli near Bidadi, and exercised powers under KIADB Act to exclude them from the acquisition process. The decision ensures the affected families will retain ownership and continued access to land.

Illegal sheds razed, park land recovered

Bengaluru: Acting on public complaints, Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) officials Tuesday removed encroachments and reclaimed park land worth around Rs 2 crore in KSRTC Layout of JP Nagar II Phase.

Residents had complained that land reserved for a public park under a high-tension (HT) power line on 5th Cross had been illegally occupied by unidentified persons. Following an inspection ordered by commissioner KN Ramesh, civic officials found unauthorized sheds constructed on 1,495 sqft of the property.

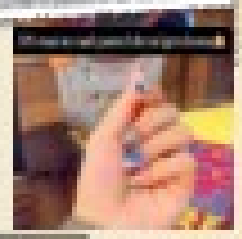
Corporation officials demolished the sheds and took possession of the land. The site falls within Jayanagar assembly constituency. TNN

ALMANAC (10.6.2026)

Vrishabha Masa 26 – Shri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Greeshma Ritu – Tithi: Adhika Jyeshtha Krishna Dasami h. 24-58 Nakshatra: Uttara Bhadrapada h. 9-22 Yoga: Ayusman h. 6-30. 24 Zulhijja
Rahu Kalam Noon — 1.30pm
— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

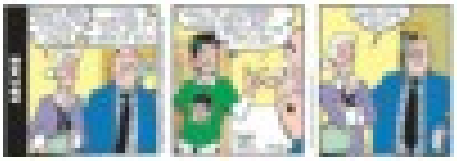
Stars unite for Soccer Aid 2026, raising £16.4M

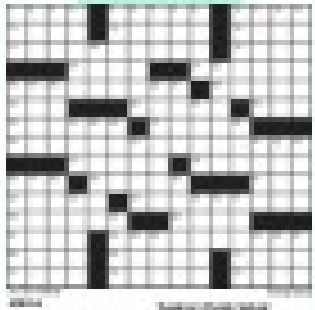
What do women owe for a ₹370 biryani?

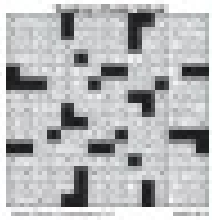


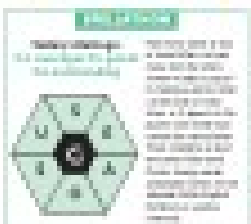
QUICK TAKE

LEISURE









USHA

UNSTOPPABLE

Padma Shri awardee and Indian women's cricket icon

Harmanpreet Kaur

USHA is proud to be associated with Harmanpreet Kaur

UP TO DATE — WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi faces one-year prison term

'Want to sleep for nothing?' South Korea has a fix for it

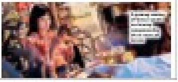
My hype music is Bollywood jams, says Priyanka's husband Nick Jonas

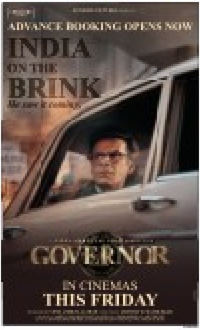
Rock band Guns N' Roses set for India return tour in 2026

Pope blesses Madrid with the viral '6-7'

After the cocoa crash, real chocolate returns

Loneliness fuels China's companion economy





Every drop counts: Flats to supply treated water to industries

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Bengaluru: In a move aimed at promoting water reuse and reducing dependence on freshwater sources, four residential communities in Bengaluru will soon begin supplying treated wastewater to industries. The initiative is expected to divert more than 25 tanker loads of treated water daily from apartment sewage treatment plants (STPs) to industrial units in Electronics City and Jigani.

The project is being implemented across Kolte Patil i-Towers, Nirman Layout, Himagiri Residency and Purva Palm Beach in partnership with Bengaluru-based water utility company Boson Whitewater. The company will process excess STP-treated water generated by these communities into high-quality water suitable for industrial applications.

Depending on the apartment complex, between 48,000 and 60,000 litres of water per day will be recovered and supplied for industrial use. While flats are struggling with excess treated water, some complexes are trying to sell their treated water to companies and industries. Many apartment complexes have been complaining about the lack of a network for buying and selling treated water.

Boson Whitewater said the treated water undergoes an advanced purification process to achieve low dissolved solids and hardness levels, making it suitable for various industrial operations. Gowthaman Desingh, co-founder of Boson Whitewater, said Bengaluru must rethink how it uses and reuses the water already available within the city. "By creating a system that upgrades this surplus water for industrial consumption, the initiative aims to establish a circular water economy that improves urban water security while reducing pressure on freshwater resources," he said.

Pic for representation

WATER SECURITY: Depending on the apartment complex, between 48,000 and 60,000 litres of water per day will be recovered

While much of the treated wastewater is being used for landscaping, gardening and maintenance activities within residential campuses, a significant surplus often remains.

Pranjal Kumar, a resident of Kolte Patil i-Towers, said the community was searching for sustainable ways to manage excess treated water from its STP. The new arrangement, he said, converts what was previously a disposal challenge into a useful resource for nearby industries.

Among the participating communities, Kolte Patil i-Towers in Electronics City, a 438-unit residential complex housing nearly 1,600 residents, generates seven tanker loads of excess treated water daily.

The project is already operational and supplying treated water to industries in Electronics City region. BB Umesh, treasurer from Nirmal Residential Welfare Association, said, "There are 250 flats in our layout and we generate around 50,000 litres per day. Initially, we were using the treated water for 10 parks and a garden. Yet, a lot of the treated water was getting wasted."

Nirman Layout in Jigani has established a 60,000-litre-per-day recovery system linked to its two sewage treatment plants. The facility is expected to supply up to five tanker loads of water daily to industries in the Jigani industrial area.

Himagiri Residency, with nearly 300 units in Electronics City, is expected to contribute around four tanker loads of treated water per day. Purva Palm Beach near Kyasanahalli, home to 10,000 residents across a 19-acre campus, is expected to become the largest contributor among the four communities. By the end of the year, the project is expected to supply between eight and 10 tanker loads of treated water daily for industrial use.

Officials unaware of approvals as BWSSB starts STP expansion

TOI

Residents allege that it is impossible for work to have started 10 days ago without the knowledge of East City Corporation officials

Sanjay.Murty@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Work on the expansion of a BWSSB sewage treatment plant (STP) within the premises of Saul Kere, a key lake near Bellandur's technology corridor, was reportedly halted by the Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) after officials admitted they were unable to verify whether the project had secured the required approvals.

@SAUL KERE

The development has exposed a lack of coordination and awareness among civic authorities regarding works at the ecologically sensitive lake land. A BECC official initially denied having any knowledge of the ongoing activity at the site. After **TOI** contacted senior officials, the matter was taken up and instructions were issued to stop the work until the necessary clearances were produced.

"We have instructed them to stop the work till they share a copy of approvals obtained. I was told that permissions have been obtained from Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority, but we have not received copies of the same. We are not aware on what terms the approvals were given by KTCDA," the official said, adding that the work began Tuesday.

Residents, however, alleged that civil works had been underway for more than 10 days. They pointed to tin-sheet barricades erected on portions of the lake, movement of construction vehicles and the creation of an access road through an opened section of the lake fencing. "There is no way the works could have proceeded without the knowledge of officials. The lake fence was opened up and a road was made to bring in vehicles," said a resident, adding, "BWSSB is upgrading the 1 MLD STP to 28-40 MLD capacity. This requires 5 acres of land, which is why this is being expanded into the lake's wetland. The workers have created a bund, which they said was to protect the construction site from rainwater."

Residents expressed concern over the lake potentially getting filled with treated water from STPs, thereby reducing flood-mitigation capacity of the lake.

Saul Kere is located right behind RMZ Ecospace and Ecoworld technology parks off Outer Ring Road. The area has been infamous for severe flooding after heavy rain as water from multiple lakes flow into Saul Kere before flowing towards Bellandur lake.

BWSSB officials were unavailable for comments.

POWER PLAY: TATA RUNS INTO SNAGS

Plan To Seek Distribution Licences For 15 Districts Kicks Up High-Voltage Resistance

Niranjan.Kaggere@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Days after seeking permission to enter Karnataka's electricity distribution sector, Tata Power seems to be facing resistance from multiple stakeholders ranging from employee unions, farmer organisations and sections of state govt.

The latest hurdle emerged Monday with Karnataka Electricity Consumers Association (KECA) submitting a detailed memorandum of objection before Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC), seeking rejection of Tata Power Company (TPCL) applications for parallel distribution licences in 15 districts across the state.

The fresh development adds to the growing list of challenges confronting Tata Power, which is seeking licences to operate in areas currently served by state-owned electricity supply companies, including Bescom (Bengaluru), Mescom (Mangaluru), Hescom (Hubballi) and Cescom (Chamundeshwari, Mysuru).

If approved, the move would mark a significant shift in Karnataka's power distribution sector, which has traditionally been dominated by the state-owned companies since inception.

In its submission before KERC, KECA argued that permitting a private distributor to operate only in commercially lucrative urban centres would undermine the financial sustainability of state-run utilities. The association contended that revenue generated from industrial, commercial and high-paying urban consumers currently supports cross-subsidy mechanisms that fund free or subsidised electricity supplied to irrigation pump (IP) sets and economically weaker sections such as Kuteera Jyothi and Bhagya Jyothi.

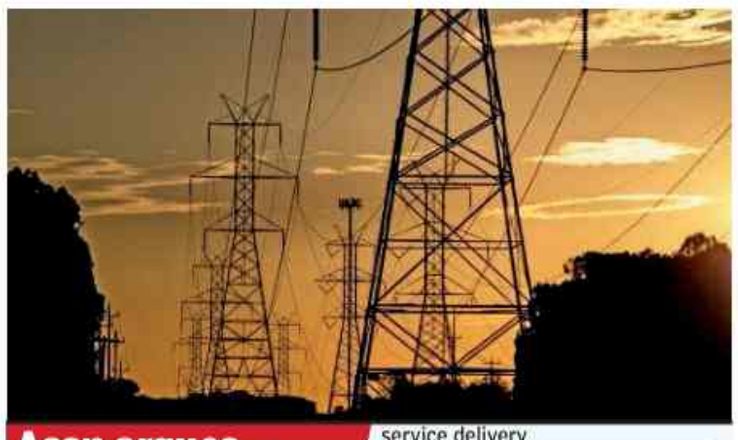
According to KECA, Tata Power's entry could result in a migration of high-revenue consumers away from Escoms, leaving public utilities burdened with subsidised consumer categories while losing their most profitable customer base. Such a scenario, the association warned, could weaken the financial position of escoms and ultimately affect service delivery.

The consumer body questioned the objective behind creating parallel distribution infrastructure. Citing provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, KECA office-bearers argued that a new licensee would be required to establish its own network of cables, transformers and distribution assets despite the existence of an extensive public grid. The association termed this an unnecessary duplication of infrastructure that could increase overall system costs without delivering tangible benefits to consumers.

Besides, the association has flagged potential threats related to employment. KECA alleged that increased private participation in electricity distribution often leads to greater dependence on outsourcing and contract labour, potentially affecting job security and service conditions of thousands of employees currently working in Karnataka's power sector.

The objections by KECA have come at a time when electricity employee unions and several stakeholders have voiced concerns over the latest proposal which they have termed 'privatisation'. Even though energy experts have expressed that Tata Power has projected competition as a means to improve efficiency and consumer choice, opponents argue that electricity distribution is a public service where financial viability and universal access remain closely linked.

KECA has urged KERC to commission an independent socio-economic impact assessment before proceeding further and appealed to the state govt to protect Karnataka's public electricity distribution system.



Assn argues...

- Permitting private distributor to operate only in commercially lucrative urban centres would undermine financial sustainability of state-run utilities
- Migration of high-revenue consumers away from Escoms will leave public utilities burdened with subsidised consumer categories while losing their most profitable customer base, ultimately affecting service delivery
- A new licensee would be required to establish its own network of cables, transformers and distribution assets despite the existence of an extensive public grid, leading to an unnecessary duplication of infrastructure, increase in overall system costs without delivering tangible benefits to consumers
- Potential threats related to employment

Big consumers' big peeve: Unscheduled outages

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Bengaluru: Unscheduled outages have emerged as the biggest concern among high-tension (HT) consumers in Bengaluru, accounting for a majority of complaints received through Bescom's newly launched HT Mitra portal. Of the grievances registered during the first month of operations, 71 were related to power supply disruptions, far exceeding complaints on voltage fluctuations, metering or billing.

The trend highlights a long-standing challenge faced by HT consumers, including industries, IT parks and shopping malls, where even a brief power disruption can result in substantial production and financial losses. Industry representatives have frequently cited outages, power quality issues and delays in grievance redressal as key reasons for shifting to the open-access market, where electricity can be purchased directly from generators. Concerned over the gradual migration of these high-revenue consumers, Bescom launched HT Mitra portal, a dedicated digital platform aimed at improving service delivery and grievance resolution for HT consumers. Within a month of its launch, around 60% of the utility's HT consumer base has been onboarded.

> Reliable power supply and quick grievance redressal are critical for HT consumers. The platform enables us to monitor complaints in real time, improve accountability and enhance consumer satisfaction. Our goal is to onboard all 17,000-plus HT consumers in the coming weeks
> **N Shivashankara** | BESCOM MD

According to Bescom officials, the portal has significantly improved response time. While regulations permit up to six hours for resolving supply-related complaints, most issues are now being addressed within minutes or, at most, within an hour.

Complaints are initially routed to field-level engineers. The utility has linked complaint resolution to employee performance. Engineers with repeated escalations may face disciplinary action, while those with zero-pendency records will be rewarded.

For decades, HT consumers have been among the most valuable customers of Karnataka's electricity supply companies as they contribute a disproportionate share of revenues despite accounting for a small percentage of the consumer base. However, increasing competition from open-access suppliers has made retaining these consumers a strategic priority.

Energy minister KJ George said the initiative is designed to offer large consumers a transparent and efficient service interface. He expressed hope that improved response would help retain consumers who may otherwise opt for open-access arrangements.

How to get 50% discount on pending fines

Times News Network

Bengaluru: After a successful discount scheme for pending traffic fines last year, from Nov 21 till Dec 12, the govt announced a 20-day period for motorists to clear pending traffic e-challans, issued before May 2026, at half the penalty amount.

The govt has provided motorists multiple online and offline options to view and clear their pending fines. Each e-challan is accompanied with a photograph as proof of violation of traffic rules.

Motorists can make payments through Karnataka State Police (KSP) app, BTP ASTraM app, Karnataka One and Bangalore One portals, as well as at the nearest traffic police station or Traffic Management Centre. Vehicle owners can avail of this 50% discount from June 21 to July 10.

The police department urged motorists to make use of the limited-period concession to clear outstanding e-challans. Till now, traffic fines of over Rs 2,827 crore haven't been paid. During the last concession period of Nov-Dec 2025, 77.4 lakh cases were cleared and fines amounting to over Rs 200 crore collected.

Krishi Mela from Oct 15-18

Bengaluru: Marking its diamond jubilee year, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru, will host Krishi Mela from Oct 15 to 18 on GKVK campus. The four-day event, themed "Varied agriculture: for the next generation", will showcase emerging opportunities and agri-technologies aimed at modernising farming and encouraging youth participation.

Key highlights include climate-smart and sustainable farming practices, organic farming, soilless cultivation, agri-machinery, agri-tourism and a showcase of rural art and culture. TNN

Man attacks brothers for not giving him weed

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Bengaluru: In a shocking case, a stranger approached a 31-year-old man for weed and later attacked him and his elder brother with a trimmer.

WITH TRIMMER

According to the complaint filed by Anith DN, a resident of Metro Layout in Nayandahalli, the incident happened around 2pm on June 3. Anith, who runs a dog-breeding business, was standing near the compound of his residence along with a friend when a stranger, identified by police as Lohith, 30, approached them and asked for weed.

When Anith said he had no weed, Lohith got into an argument with him. Lohith then went to a nearby shop, where his father works as a tailor, and got a trimmer from there. He returned and asked Anith for water. After drinking water, Lohith tried to attack Anith with the trimmer. Hearing the commotion, Anith's elder brother, Punith, rushed to intervene. Lohith turned to him and struck him above the eye and on the chest with the trimmer.

Lohith also inflicted injuries on Anith's head, arm and skin above his eye before trying to flee. However, he was caught by residents. Punith called 112 helpline and police detained Lohith.

The injured brothers were treated in a private hospital. A case was registered under BNS Sections 118 (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means) and 351 (criminal conspiracy) at Chandra Layout police station. Lohith was arrested and released on station bail. Lohith had earlier attacked a woman in Padarayanapura in a similar manner, and a case was registered against him. Lohith's father claimed he is mentally disturbed, but he is not undergoing any treatment.

Woman was on way to brother's house when attacked

▶ Continued from page 1

The woman, a mother of two, fought with her alcoholic husband and walked out of the house in anger on the evening of June 3. She was walking towards her brother's house in the neighbouring village, 2km away.

Police said a boy approached her and asked if she wanted a glass of juice as she was looking exhausted. According to the FIR, the woman accepted the offer and drank what she believed was juice from a bottle. Immediately, she started feeling drowsy. The FIR quoted her as saying later that the accused had laced the drink with a sedative.

Later, the boy and another person offered to drop the woman to her brother's village. "But they took me to a field and committed the crime with more youths. Feeling dizzy and unaware of where I was, I fell asleep. I woke up and reached my brother's house around 3.20am," the victim said in a complaint.

Police arrested 10 suspects on charges of gang rape, filming photos and videos.

The arrested are Chataki Nagaraj, Istari Nagaraj, Madhu, Arjun, Basavanta, Kundur Maruti, Manu, Jogi Sunil and Pradeep. SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act has also been invoked.

'Trai officials' cite money laundering case, dupe homemaker of ₹1.6 crore

Times News Network

Bengaluru: A 39-year-old woman lost more than Rs 1.6 crore after scammers posing as officials from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) and law enforcement agencies convinced her that she was under investigation for money laundering.

Prema (name changed), a homemaker from Banashankari, said her ordeal began on Dec 6 when she received a call from a person claiming to be from Trai. He claimed her mobile number had been linked to illegal activities and for making around 80 fraud calls, and warned that she would be arrested.

When Prema denied any involvement and disconnected the call, the fraudster again contacted her and claimed the matter will be escalated to senior officials.

A man identifying himself as Pradeep Sawant contacted her through WhatsApp call and convinced her that a bank account opened in her name was involved in money-laundering activities.

Pradeep warned Prema not to reveal about the call and kept her under digital arrest. They collected her personal information, including details about her husband and bank accounts. He claimed her case was transferred to another officer, Sadananda V, and instructed her to transfer money to designated accounts under the pretext of verification, security deposits, inspection charges and other investigation-related expenses. Over the following months, Prema received calls from multiple numbers, including international and domestic ones, from individuals posing as investigating officers. Between Dec 2025 and May 2026, she transferred Rs 1,63,29,176.

#DontGetScammed
Gift TOI to your loved ones and protect them from scams.
Call 85 95 124 124

Legislators camping in Delhi for cabinet berths; KBG supporters launch campaign

▶ Continued from page 1

Several other legislators, including TB Jayachandra and Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad, are camping in Delhi, eyeing cabinet berths in the expansion expected later this month.

While CMO officials suggest AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge has said portfolio allocation is the CM's prerogative, sources close to KBG believe it is an eyewash.

Aides of the minister explained the administrative hurdles in a split power structure, if allowed to exist. "For instance, if major issues arise along Outer Ring Road which is under Bangalore Development Authority, who is accountable to the Bengaluru development minister? Similarly, dozens of lakes in Bengaluru are managed by BDA. If flooding occurs during monsoon due to poor maintenance or encroachments, whom can the minister hold responsible? Same goes for all projects taken up by BDA," a source said.

Followers of Byregowda have launched online campaigns seeking complete control of Bengaluru development for the minister.

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Mrs. Parvathamma Veerabhadraiah
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"No Day passes without Remembering you" -
Children, Grand Children, Great Grand Children, Family & Friends

5th YEAR REMEMBRANCE

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SAD DEMISE

AJAY JOSEPH CHACKO
1997-2026
Passed away on 06-06-26.
Funeral Details:
Public Visitation tomorrow 11-06-26 between 11a.m.to 1p.m. At: Next to Span Krishna Apartments, Vodrapalaya, Horamavu Agra Road, Bangalore
Burial : 3.30 p.m.
Indian Christian Cemetry (Gate No.3) Hosur Road
Sorrowing family members:
Friends & Relatives

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Honesty in music always finds its audience eventually: Raghu Dixit

RAGHU DIXIT

For a long time, I thought it was my fault to some from community pushing concept. But eventually I realised that if you don't take care of yourself emotionally and mentally, the community also suffers

Folk music and the [illegible] at most gatherings. Dixit's for me, they are about [illegible] and where it [illegible]

Put your phones down and connect

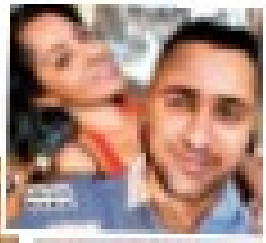
AT A SWISS GATHERING, HUNDREDS OF CHARLIE CHAPLINS APPEAR

Will focus on staying fit all year: Sonam

'Being [illegible] channels, I try to learn a few things from the media'

There's not a good just because it's summer

Found myself completely drained by the business of being an actor: Lekha



Lekha Washington and 'Nishabdham' pay tribute to domestic and sexual workers. They don't define me, what I refuse to do are cliches in TV commercials when a need to cut any down. That's where I stand today. People who see those [illegible] don't know the reality

LEKHA WASHINGTON

'When we started dating, it wasn't a fairytale romance'

'Everyone needs a voice, and music is my voice'

Eye on 2028, is Shivakumar overplaying spiritual card?

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TOI

NETWORKING: Ganesanathan Geathiswaran, deputy high commissioner of Sri Lanka to Southern India, called on chief minister DK Shivakumar at his office in Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday

Bengaluru: Barely a week into his tenure as chief minister, DK Shivakumar has made headlines not only for policy decisions but also for a string of highly visible religious engagements ranging from temple visits and mutt interactions to homas, special rituals and consultations with astrologers.

Faith has always been a big part of Shivakumar's public persona, but what is drawing

FAITH & GOVERNANCE

attention is the prominence these activities have acquired at a time when his administration is expected to establish its governance agenda.

On his first day in office, Shivakumar announced several sops and development measures, including free bus passes for students and Rs 2,000 crore to repair Bengaluru roads. Yet, much of the public discussion centred on the religious symbolism surrounding his swearing-in ceremony.

The contrast with his immediate predecessor Siddaramaiah is stark. Although often targeted by political opponents as anti-Hindu or atheist, Siddaramaiah consistently maintained that he believed in God, visited temples and respected religious traditions. But his public image was shaped largely by welfare programmes, social justice initiatives and governance rather than overt displays of faith.

MB Maramkal, political strategist, says the approach reflects a larger calculation. "For years, BJP has accused Congress of being uncomfortable with overt expressions of Hindu faith," he said. "Across India, Congress members have responded by highlighting their own religious credentials. Shivakumar's public embrace of faith may be part of that broader effort to challenge BJP's narrative and reassure Hindu voters that Congress is not disconnected from religious traditions."

But Maramkal also sees a challenge. "BJP's appeal among large sections of Hindu voters is not based simply on temple visits or public rituals. It is rooted in an ideological Hindutva framework that has been cultivated for decades," he said. "Competing with BJP through religious symbolism risks endorsing BJP's political framing while offering voters little reason to choose Congress instead."

The debate has taken the focus off several pressing issues, including concerns over rainfall, Bengaluru's infrastructure problems, traffic congestion, water shortages, industrial competition, unemployment, and fiscal pressures.

MN Patil, political commentator, said public attention can be won through symbolism, but govts are ultimately judged by performance.

"Temple visits may generate headlines, homas may create optics, and astrological consultations may satisfy personal beliefs, but none of them can solve civic problems or improve public services," he said. "Shivakumar's greatest political strength has always been his reputation as an organiser, negotiator and troubleshooter. If that image is gradually replaced by one centred on rituals and religious optics, the govt risks sending the wrong signal at a time when it needs to project administrative purpose."

Patil said the real test for the new administration would be delivery. "Voters are not going to judge the Shivakumar govt by the number of temples visited or seers consulted," he said. "They will judge it by roads built, investments attracted, jobs created and promises delivered. The challenge for Shivakumar is ensuring that faith remains a personal asset rather than becoming the defining narrative of his administration."

Stop divisive rhetoric on RSS: BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: BJP state president BY Vijayendra hit back at home minister Priyank Kharge's remarks on Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), accusing him of engaging in "divisive rhetoric" and "diverting attention from governance".

In a statement, Vijayendra said "governments have come and gone" and several of them had previously attempted to ban RSS but were "ultimately rejected by the people," while RSS continued to flourish.

He said RSS operates "within the framework of the Constitution," which Priyank "has sworn to uphold as a minister". "Attacking the RSS may generate headlines, but it does little to improve lives of people who elected you," Vijayendra said. He took a personal swipe at Priyank, pointing out Kalaburagi, Priyank's home district, ranked poorly on development indicators. He attributed it to "years of inadequate governance and ineffective leadership". He said people of the state and Kalaburagi deserved "better".

CT Ravi, BJP MLC, also "advised" Priyank not to behave in a "goonda-like" manner and to maintain the dignity of the office of the home minister.

Cong's false sympathy aimed at creating rift in NDA: HDK

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Union minister HD Kumaraswamy revealed former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda "never applied" for a ticket to contest Rajya Sabha polls and that Congress was trying to create a rift in the JD(S)-BJP alliance with what he called "false sympathy" for the JD(S) patriarch.

Kumaraswamy, state president of the regional outfit, told reporters in Mandya that Congress was using Gowda's name for political purposes.

RS SEAT FOR GOWDA

"They have suddenly developed immense sympathy for Gowda," Kumaraswamy said. "Their efforts to create divisions in the NDA alliance will fail." He said Congress was using Gowda as a "political tool" to divert attention from its own failures and internal issues.

File picture of HD Kumaraswamy

Praising Gowda, Kumaraswamy said he built his political career through toil and struggle and never pursued positions of authority for personal gain. "When his self-respect was hurt, he even gave up the PM post. Doesn't Congress know history?" he asked.

Referring to Gowda's unopposed election to the Rajya Sabha in 2020, he rejected claims that it was made possible due to Congress support. He said, at the time, no party had the sufficient strength to independently elect a candidate, while JD(S) had the required numbers to ensure Gowda's victory.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra also alleged Congress was shedding "crocodile tears" for Gowda and that it had "no moral right" to be concerned for him.

Meanwhile, Kumaraswamy dismissed reports that chief minister DK Shivakumar had hoped to meet him and seek his advice, saying he had nothing to offer. "What advice can I give? Shivakumar himself questioned what Kumaraswamy achieved during his two terms as CM. If I achieved nothing, why would he seek my advice?" he asked.

On the JD(S) decision to field a candidate in the legislative council elections, he said the party needed only two more votes to win.

"We will seek support wherever possible, including from expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal. Congress has the advantage of both money power and govt power. We will see how the election unfolds," he said.

IANS

SAD TIME: Rahul Gandhi, Lok Sabha opposition leader and Congress functionary, consoles members of Suraj Hegde's family in Bengaluru Tuesday. Rahul was in the city for the last rites of Hegde, AICC secretary and former vice-chairman of the guarantee schemes' implementation panel, who died late Sunday. Chief minister DK Shivakumar, his predecessor Siddaramaiah and AICC general secretary KC Venugopal were among others who attended the funeral

Cabinet set to discuss new caste census report; all eyes on DKS

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Bengaluru: The controversial socio-economic and educational survey, popularly called the caste census, the first of the major politico-administrative challenges for chief minister DK Shivakumar, is scheduled to come up for discussions at the next cabinet meeting, likely on June 20. Details of the report will be shared with the 13 ministers of his cabinet ahead of discussions, sources said.

Former CM Siddaramaiah, a day before he quit, accepted the report prepared by Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission. While Siddaramaiah did not divulge its contents, it was left to the new govt to take a decision on the recommendations of the commission. It is said Siddaramaiah's only demand before stepping down was: "Accept and implement the report."

Yathindra Siddaramaiah, urban development minister, told **TOI**: "Even at meetings in Delhi (with party bosses), my father requested Rahul Gandhi to ensure the new govt accepts the report." He reiterated the 2015 caste census was set aside as it was time-barred, and the data was "not scientifically collected". "So, my father commissioned a fresh survey," he said.

On the historical precedence of dominant community ministers not willing to accept the old report and the same fate may await the new report, Yathindra said the govt will make efforts to convince everyone.

"The survey was to dispel objections functionaries had raised. It has to be accepted by all sections of society. We must convince them all ahead of implementing it," Yathindra said.

The current cabinet has three Vokkaligas (including CM Shivakumar), three Lingayats, two Kurubas, three Dalits (including DCM G Parameshwara) and one each from Muslim, Christian and ST communities.

Kanugolu to remain adviser to new CM

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Bengaluru: CM DK Shivakumar has retained the services of political analyst **Sunil Kanugolu** as his chief adviser while dismissing other advisers of his predecessor Siddaramaiah. Kanugolu, a key strategist of Congress party's victory in 2023, has been given cabinet rank and will enjoy the perks that come with it.

The move suggests Congress is positioning itself for the 2028 polls. Sources say the appointment is based on a high command diktat and the aim is to track the progress and "popularity" of the govt ahead of the polls.

Kanugolu has held multiple positions in Congress. It is said that he was offered a similar profile in Telangana after Congress' victory there but could not accept since he was already holding a similar position in Karnataka.

While he never quit his official position, he moved away from Karnataka to take up responsibilities at the national level during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and various state elections in the country.

Considered an apostle of prominent poll strategist Prashant Kishor, and one of the few who worked at Association of a Billion Minds during its early days, Kanugolu launched Mindshare Analytics, his own venture. He was contracted by Congress and Shivakumar ahead of the 2023 elections in Karnataka.

Meanwhile, his govt has withdrawn advisory posts of confidantes of Siddaramaiah including KV Prabhakar, media adviser, Dr H Ravikumar, medical adviser, and senior Congress MLA Basavaraj Rayareddi who served as economic adviser. Shivakumar also "accepted" the resignation of Virajpet legislator AS Ponnann, who was legal adviser to CM Siddaramaiah.

HDK heading back to state politics?

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mandya: Preparing the ground for his plausible return to state politics, Union minister HD Kumaraswamy said education, healthcare and agriculture would be key focus areas if the BJP-JD(S) coalition forms the next govt in Karnataka.

Speaking at a gathering in Taggahalli, Mandya district, he outlined his vision for development and welfare while attacking the Congress govt over its policies.

Criticising the govt, he said "short-term welfare measures will not ensure long-term development". He urged people to focus on their children's future through quality education and employment.

Expressing confidence in the BJP-JD(S) alliance, he said people were increasingly disillusioned with the present govt and predicted that the coalition would return to the helm with public support.

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Default sentence can't exceed 6 months, says HC

Orders Release Of Bengalurean

Vasantha.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: In a significant ruling on cheque-bounce cases, the high court has held that in prosecutions under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act, where the maximum substantive sentence is two years' imprisonment, the default sentence for non-payment of compensation cannot exceed six months.

CHEQUE BOUNCE

Justice M Nagaprasanna made this observation while ordering release of Dinesh Kripalani, a resident of Bengaluru.

In Dec 2017, Dinesh entered into a loan agreement with M/s Jupiter Capital Ltd, Bengaluru, for Rs 10 crore, and Rs 5.9-crore loan amount was disbursed. In Aug 2020, for repayment of the remaining loan amount along with interest, Dinesh issued three cheques for amounts of Rs 50 lakh, Rs 3.5 crore and Rs 5 crore. All three cheques were dishonoured on the same day and after issuance of statutory demand notices, Jupiter Capital Ltd registered a case under Section 138 of NI Act against Dinesh in 2021.

On Dec 14, 2023, Dinesh was convicted in all the three cases. He was fined Rs 61.7 lakh, Rs 4.3 crore and Rs 6.2 crore for the three dishonoured cheques. If he defaulted in paying the fine, he was to undergo simple imprisonment for three months in each case, totalling nine months. On May 29, 2025, he was directed to serve the default sentence. Based on the same, he was sent to jail on Sept 29, 2025.

The court noted statutory ceiling under Section 65 is absolute and that imprisonment in default cannot exceed one-fourth of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offence

Challenging the order, Dinesh approached the high court, arguing that the default period of six months as prescribed under the NI Act was over on March 29, 2026, and that he should be released. He argued that in terms of Section 65 of the Indian Penal Code, now Section 24 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita-2023, since the default sentence cannot be more than one-fourth of the maximum punishment.

After perusing the provisions cited by Dinesh and the judgment of the Delhi high court in a similar case, Justice Nagaprasanna noted that legislative intent underlying the provision is luminous and that imprisonment in default is not to assume the character of a disproportionately oppressive penalty, but is intended merely as a coercive mechanism to secure payment of fine.

"The provisions of Section 65 of IPC (now Section 24 of BNS) have make it clear that a default sentence cannot exceed one-fourth of the maximum imprisonment prescribed for the substantive offence. This reflects the legislature's intent to prevent excessive incarceration solely for failure to discharge a monetary liability," the judge observed.

Justice Nagaprasanna also referred to a Delhi high court ruling that held the statutory ceiling under Section 65 is absolute, and that imprisonment in default cannot exceed one-fourth of the maximum sentence prescribed for the offence.

Accordingly, in cheque-bounce cases under Section 138 of Negotiable Instruments Act, where the maximum substantive punishment is two years' imprisonment, the default sentence cannot exceed six months, he said.

The present adjudication concerns only the legality and proportionality of continued incarceration in default of payment of fine and shall not eclipse or dilute the statutory right of the complainant or the state to pursue recovery proceedings in accordance with law, Justice Nagaprasanna specified in his order.

Farmer climbs tree outside Soudha over land for NH

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Chaos prevailed outside the west gate of Vidhana Soudha Tuesday afternoon when a farmer from Tarikere in Chikkamagaluru climbed a tree and said he will die by suicide as National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and state govt had allegedly betrayed him over land acquisition.

This is not the first time the farmer, TN Vishnukumar, is protesting against alleged injustice. He chopped down a sandalwood tree inside Legislators' Home this Feb and climbed a high-tension power transmission tower in Tarikere in June last year as part of his agitation against land acquisition. "At 12.45pm, Vishnukumar was seen on the tree. He was brought to Vidhana Soudha police station, where a case of causing public nuisance was registered against him. By evening, he was sent home," an officer said.

According to Vishnukumar, NHAI officials acquired 3.3 acres of his land at Haliyur village in Tarikere to build a bypass on NH-69. Then, 22 of his sandalwood trees were felled. "The compensation offered was unscientific and not even close to the market value of the land and trees. I blame both NHAI officials and Chikkamagaluru district commissioner for the injustice," Vishnukumar told Vidhana Soudha police.

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I, Chandrakant Pandurangrao Deshpande @ #317, Radiant white orchid Apts, Bannerghatta road,Kalena Agaraha,Near Hilkai Factory, B'lore 560076 declare that Chandrakant P Deshpande and Deshpande Chandrakant are one and the same refer to same person. vide affidavit dated: 29/05/2026 sworn before notary H.R Karunakar, Bangalore.

I, SHASHANK VINOD, S/o. Vinod Ramgopal, residing at No. 21/1, North road, Cooke Town, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru-560084, have changed my name to SHASHANK, vide affidavit dt: 08.06.2026, sworn before notary Kishwar Hussain M.S, Bengaluru.

I, Mayavva Anil Kakandaki, W/o Anil Basavaraj Kakandaki, residing at Byakud, Belgaum 591317, have changed my name to Sneha Anil Kakandaki for all future purposes.

I Nischitha Chinnari, D/o Prashanth Krishnasetty #623, 3rd Floor, 3rd Main, Shantiniketan Layout, Arekera, Bangalore, Shall Be Known as Nischitha P Chinnari for all Purpose

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PAVADEPPA BASAPPA AKKALKOTI, S/o. BASAPPA AKKALKOTI, Resident of Flat No D302, Mantri Alpyne Apts, Uttarahalli Village and Hobli, Bengaluru- 560061 Karnataka, India have changed my Name from PAVADEPPA BASAPPA AKKALKOTI to PAWADEPPA BASAPPA AKKALKOT for all purposes, vide Affidavit dated 08/06/2026 sworn before Notary B Gopala Krishna, Bengaluru.

I, Kavita w/o Chandrakant Deshpande residing @ #317, Radiant white orchid Apts, Bannerghatta road,Kalena Agaraha,Near Hilkai Factory, B'lore 560076 declare that Kavita C Deshpande & Kavita Chandrakant Deshpande are one and the same person. vide affidavit dated: 29/05/2026 sworn before notary H.R Karunakar, Bangalore.

I Priyadarshni Trivedi W/O, Deepak Trivedi R/o C-1004, Ncc Meadows-1 Doddaballapur Road, Yelahanka Bengaluru, Karnataka 560064 have changed my name to Priyadarshani Trivedi. Henceforth, I shall be known and called as Priyadarshani Trivedi for all purposes.

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I, Shruthi Sulikeri (Old Name) resident of H. No. 202, Adora Residency Wasa Layout, 6th Main Road, Doddanekundi, Bangalore, have changed my name from SHRUTHI SULIKERI (Old Name) to SHRUTHI ANCHATGERI (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as SHRUTHI ANCHATGERI (New Name) vide affidavit No. 462, dated 29-05-2026 sworn before the Notary B. Shantharama Shetty.

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TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026

'DHAM' TAG TO BE REMOVED FROM DIGHA JAGANNATH TEMPLE COMPLEX, SAYS BENGAL CM SUVENDU ADHIKARI

TAMIL NADU CM JOSEPH VIJAY INAUGURATES SPECIAL POLICE UNIT 'SINGAPPEN' TO ENHANCE SAFETY FOR WOMEN

HACK OF THE DAY — **CHECK AIR QUALITY BEFORE OUTDOOR PLANS**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps you avoid bad-air windows before morning walks, cycling, outdoor sports, or long commutes

WHAT TO DO: Use Google's air quality information before deciding when to step out or whether to use a mask

STEPS:

1. **Open** Google Maps or search for air quality near a location
2. **Tap** the air quality layer or result if available
3. **Check** the AQI level and nearby monitoring points
4. **Compare** nearby areas if you are choosing where to walk, run, or commute
5. **Plan** your activity for a cleaner window if the air is poor

CAREFUL: AQI can vary within the city. Treat it as a decision aid, not a reading for your street

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

Flight delay, RS nomination shock grounds MP Cong MLAs' B'luru trip

Ramendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

Bhopal: Congress's plan to corral its MLAs ahead of Rajya Sabha elections in MP was grounded Tuesday by back-to-back twists, starting with airport authorities in Bhopal refusing to accept a handwritten passenger manifest for a special flight chartered to ferry 38 legislators and their families to Bengaluru.

The four-hour airport impasse had an even more bizarre ending when Meenakshi Natarajan's RS nomination was rejected over an allegedly undisclosed case, culminating in the trip being cancelled.

A total of 74 passengers — including 38 Congress MLAs and their family members — arrived at the airport expecting to depart immediately. Another 20 MLAs were due to travel on an evening flight. The sudden rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination upset those plans and sparked uncertainty

All 74 passengers booked on the special flight had arrived at Bhopal airport before noon, expecting to depart soon after. Another 20 MLAs were due to take an evening flight out of the city.

By the time the special flight was cleared or take-off, news of Natarajan's nomination being rejected upended the MLAs' travel plan.

Airport authorities said they were merely following protocol by insisting on completion of all formalities. "A handwritten manifest wasn't acceptable," a senior official said. "Regulatory procedures and security requirements had to be met before the aircraft could be cleared."

Congress spokesperson Vivek Tripathi accused airport authorities of deliberate obstruction, alleging the MLAs bound for Bengaluru had been barred from entering the terminal between noon and 4.30pm. "Everything was done deliberately," he said.

The airport drama lent an unexpected edge to what had been a charged RS contest. BJP fielded Mahesh Kevat, chairperson of the state fisheries welfare board, for the seat long held by Congress. Both Natarajan and Kevat filed their nominations Monday amid suggestions that cross-voting would be the decisive factor.

5 teens drown in Maha river

Five teenager friends drowned in a river in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district. Preliminary probe suggests they entered the river to beat the intense heat but misjudged its depth and current, and got swept away.

The teens, all residents of Indiranagar in Ghuggus town, had gone for a swim in Wardha river near Chandur village Monday afternoon. When they did not return home by the evening, their families assumed they were spending time with friends.

Concern mounted when repeated phone calls went unanswered. After searching for them across the town, the anxious parents reached the riverbank at around 10pm.

There, they found the teens' clothes, sandals and mobile phones lying unattended. They alerted the police following which a rescue operation was launched. However, rain disrupted search efforts and forced teams to suspend operations for the night.

The search resumed Tuesday morning.

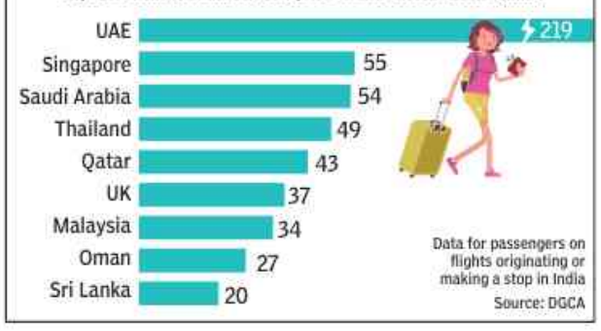
The disaster management department's rescue team recovered all five bodies by the afternoon. TNN

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Why Gulf dominates India's air traffic

Gulf nations account for largest share of India's air traffic owing to migration, business and the region being an aviation transit hub. Thailand's tourism appeal places it among busiest international routes

Top 10 countries in no. of flyers to and from India (lakh)



ED issues summons to ex-Kerala CM's daughter, others

Kochi: ED has issued summons to Veena T, daughter of Kerala's opposition leader and former CM Pinarayi Vijayan, and eight others in connection with alleged irregularities in the financial transactions of Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL) and its links with Veena's company, Exalogic Solutions Private Ltd.

Sources said Veena had been directed to appear before ED's Kochi office on Friday to give a statement.

Others summoned include CMRL officials. The statement of CMRL managing director Sasidharan Kartha is also likely to be recorded.

ED had earlier conducted raids across at Veena's residences and premises of CMRL, its directors and Veena's company. Searches were conducted in 10 locations in Kottayam, Ernakulam, Kannur, Thiruvananthapuram and Bengaluru.

Following the searches, ED also moved a court seeking copies of all documents prepared by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO). The request was granted on Monday and ED obtained copies of SFIO documents despite objections raised by CMRL. TNN

CJI meets high commissioner in UK, seeks cover for ex-judge, kin

Raises Issue With CJ Of Bombay HC As 'Threat Originated In India'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: CJI Surya Kant has taken up the death threats being issued to retired Bombay HC judge Justice Gautam Patel with the Indian high commission in London, and has been assured that adequate security arrangements have been put in place for him and his family.

The CJI, who is on an official visit to the UK, met Indian high commissioner P Kumaran hours after Justice Patel went public about the threat letter delivered to his daughter's residence in London.

"I had a discussion with the high commissioner, who assured that no harm would come to him or his family and that adequate security arrangements have been made by the London police," CJI Kant told **TOI**.

Justice Patel on Monday had said the letter was in response to a judgment he passed in 2024. The case, which is pending appeal, sought to establish the succession and name of the Syedna, the spiritual leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community.

Over the past 10 months, the Patel family has received several anonymous letters, including one in 2025 which, Justice Patel said, "accused me of having delivered my judgment fraudulently, under pressure". The letter asked the judge to release a video on YouTube to state he had "delivered an incorrect verdict... which has caused irreparable harm to the faith and future of a respected community of a million plus members".

On the attack on his daughter in London, Justice Patel had said, "This is a clever attempt to leverage the jurisdictional gap between Mumbai and London. There has been no attack on me in Mumbai, for that would result in immediate local action. Instead, the attack is directed against my daughter, a British citizen, on British soil. The connection to me and the judgment remains, but the actual attack — and therefore actual investigation — gets localised to UK."

CJI Surya Kant (L) said the high commissioner assured no harm would come to Justice Gautam Patel (R) or his family & UK police had arranged adequate security

The high commissioner informed the CJI the threat appeared to have originated in India as the intimidation was related to a case in Maharashtra. CJI Kant said, "I have sent a message to the acting chief justice of Bombay HC (Justice Ravindra Vithalrao Ghuge) to take appropriate steps on the judicial and administrative side as the litigation pertained to local parties." The CJI is expected to be back in India on June 12.

No bail for man 'who vandalised judge's home'

New Delhi: Holding that it was unacceptable to threaten judges, Supreme Court has denied bail to a man who, with two others, is accused of vandalising the residence of a judicial officer over his bail plea being rejected, reports **Dhananjay Mahapatra**.

When the counsel for Priyanshu Singh told a bench of Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and Sanjeev Sachdeva that the accused had already been in jail for seven months, the bench said issuing death threats to a magistrate was a serious crime, and such acts interfered with free and fair dispensation of justice.

In Oct last year, an FIR was filed against Singh and his two associates for vandalising Annupur district judicial magistrate Amandeep Singh Chhabra's residence. The accused had been granted bail by an additional sessions judge after Chhabra rejected his bail plea.

Manipur CM hails decision to free hostages

▸ Continued from page 1

Kuki Inpi Manipur termed the murder "a stark reflection of the grave failure of the state's security apparatus, the selective deployment of security forces and the persistent administrative bias against Kuki-Zo people". A 58-year-old Rongmei Naga villager, Chungjanglung Panmei, was killed in a suspected militant attack while collecting firewood the previous day.

The 14 hostages handed over to tribal chieftains and police after their release from an undisclosed location were among 51 people from both the Kuki and Naga communities abducted by armed groups on May 13, soon after three pastors of the Thadou Baptist Association India were killed in an ambush on their vehicle in Kangpokpi. Of those hostages, 31 were released within 24 hours. The remaining 20 remained untraceable until the Kuki hostages were freed Tuesday. CM Y Khemchand Singh hailed the decision to eventually free the hostages "a positive and humanitarian step" and appealed to Naga and Kuki groups to end the cycle of retaliation.

ভারতীয় প্রকৌশল বিজ্ঞান এবং প্রযুক্তিবিদ্যা প্রতিষ্ঠান, শিবপুর
भारतीय अभियांत्रिकी विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, शिवपुर
Indian Institute of Engineering Science & Technology, Shibpur
(An Institute of National Importance)

Admission to MBA Program in School of Management Sciences for Academic Session 2026-2028

Advt. No. RO/JU/26/19 Date: 09.06.2026

Applications are invited **online** for admission to the **Two-Year full time MBA (Session 2026-2028).** For eligibility criteria, and other details, please visit: **www.iiests.ac.in**

Last date of submission of application is July 06, 2026 (12.00 midnight).

Registrar

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Certificate will be awarded

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No.SAAP/Estt./Academies/AC/3235505/2026-2, Date:08.06.2026

The Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada, invites applications for engagement of coaches in the following disciplines on a scheme-based contract basis.

ASSISTANT COACHES-07 Posts

S.No.	Disciplines	No.of Posts	S.No.	Disciplines	No.of Posts
1	Badminton	02	4	Kho-Kho	01
2	Boxing	01	5	Cycling	01
3	Rifle Shooting	01	6	Gymnastics	01

Detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, terms and conditions of engagement, monthly remuneration, and the application form is available on the website: **www.sports.ap.gov.in** Eligible candidates are informed to submit their applications from **10.06.2026 to 16.06.2026** via email to saap.recruitment@gmail.com. For further details contact: 0866-2499699.

Sd/-
Vice Chairman and Managing Director

DIPR No:5147PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt:09/06/2026

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Mahesh Mathapati, S/o Siddayya Kannahali, R/o H.No. E/2/2 near Linagaya Temple Kannahalli Shorapur Yadgir, Bengaluru, Karnataka-585224** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **Case Reg. No. 793/23, U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Maurya Enclave, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Mahesh Mathapati** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Mahesh Mathapati** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Mahesh Mathapati** accused of **Case Reg. No. 793/23, U/s 138 NI Act, P.S. Maurya Enclave, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **14.08.2026.**

By Order - Ms. Ebbani Aggarwal
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03, North West
Room No. 107, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/6967/NW/2026

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
Bengaluru Regional Office

Public Notice

Directions under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 – The Amanath Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bangalore - Extension of Period

The Reserve Bank of India issued Directions under Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to The Amanath Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bangalore vide Directive No. CO.DOS.SED.No.S1931/12-23-001/2024-2025 dated June 12, 2024 for a period of six months up to close of business on December 12, 2024, which was last extended vide Directive No. DOR.MON/D-61/12.23.001/2025-26 dated March 02, 2026. The Reserve Bank of India is satisfied that in the public interest, it is necessary to further extend the period of operation of the Directive beyond close of business on June 12, 2026.

2. Accordingly, the Reserve Bank of India, in the exercise of powers vested in it under subsection (1) of Section 35A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, hereby extends the Directive for a further period of three months from close of business on June 12, 2026 to close of business on September 12, 2026, subject to review.

3. Other terms and conditions of the Directive under reference, shall remain unchanged.

Bengaluru **Sd/-**
Date: June 10, 2026 **Regional Director**

Reserve Bank of India
Department of Regulation, Nodal Office, Bengaluru
www.rbi.org.in

Public Notice

In exercise of powers conferred under section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (the Act), the Reserve Bank of India, has cancelled the Certificates of Registration (CoR) of the following company for carrying on the business of Non-Banking Financial Institution as defined in Section 45-I(a) of the Act. The company therefore cannot carry on the business of a Non-Banking Financial Institution as defined under the Act.

Sr No.	Name of the Company and CIN Number	Registered Office Address of the Company	Certificate of Registration Number and Date	Cancellation Order date
I.	M/s Kallarakkal Fincorp Private Limited (CIN - U65910KA1994PTC015617)	#1101, Cabin No. 311/B, 3rd Floor, 24th Main, J P Nagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560 078	B-02.00161 dated December 30, 2016	April 27, 2026

2. The company was directed to return the CoR in original, however, the same has not been surrendered to the Bank. Therefore, members of public are hereby cautioned that if anyone comes across any information about the misuse of the above-mentioned CoR issued in the name of Kallarakkal Fincorp Private Limited, the same may be informed to the Reserve Bank of India, at: Address - Department of Regulation, Reserve Bank of India, 10/3/8, Nrupatunga Road, Bengaluru – 560001, Email - dorbengaluru@rbi.org.in.

3. A list containing the names of Non-Banking Financial Companies whose Certificate of Registration have been cancelled is published in the official website of the Reserve Bank of India, https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_NBFCList.aspx, and the same is being updated regularly.

This is issued in public interest.

Place: Bengaluru **Sd/-**
Date: June 10, 2026 **General Manager**

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
विनियमन विभाग, नोडल कार्यालय, बेंगलूरु
www.rbi.org.in

सार्वजनिक सूचना

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक अधिनियम, 1934 ('अधिनियम') की धारा 45-आईए (6) के तहत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने अधिनियम की धारा 45-आई(ए) में यथापरिभाषित गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय संस्थान के व्यवसाय को चलाने के लिए उपरोक्त कंपनी के पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र (सीओआर) को रद्द कर दिया है। अतएव, यह कंपनी अधिनियम के तहत यथापरिभाषित गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय संस्थान का कारोबार नहीं कर सकती है।

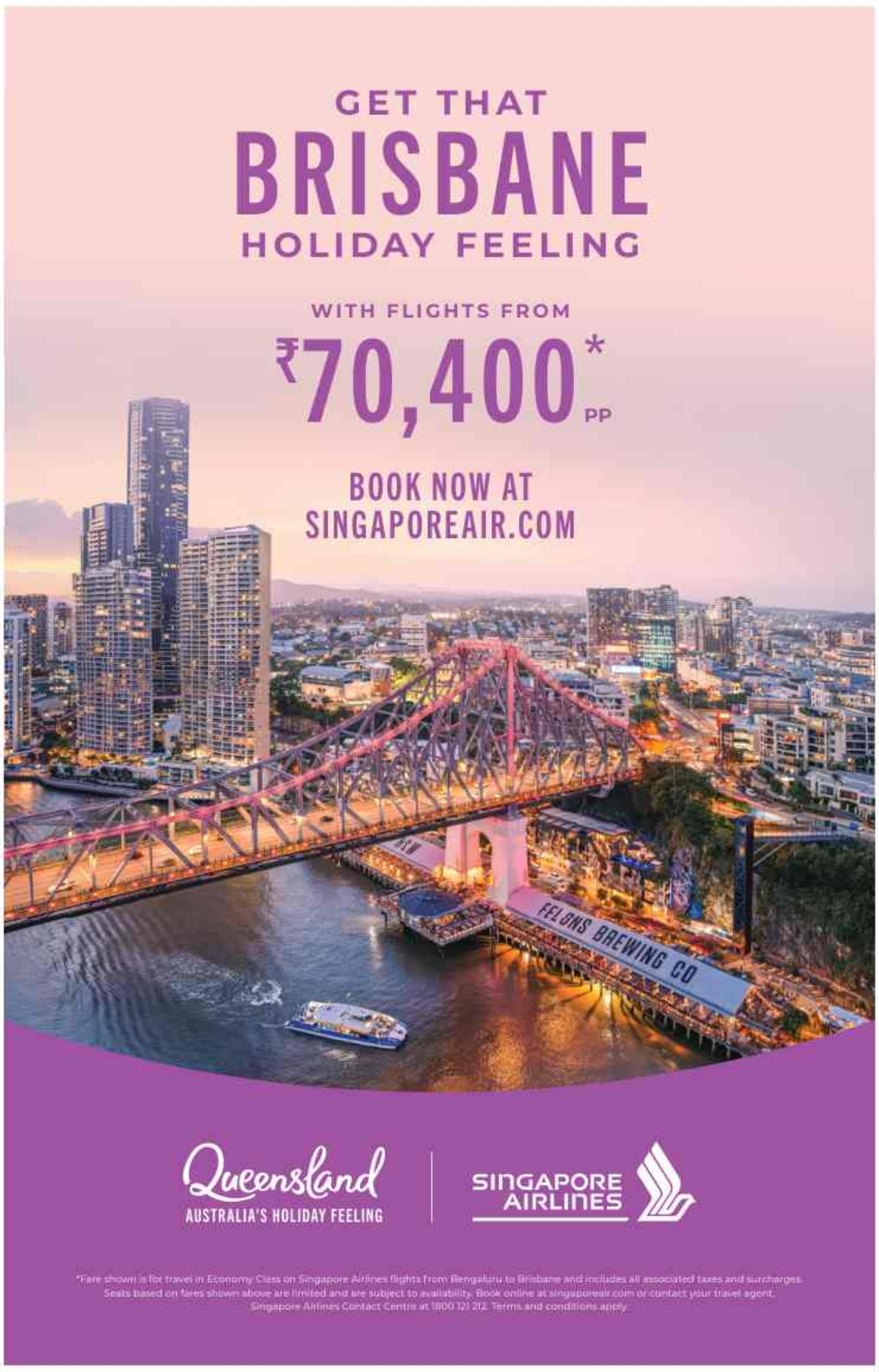
क्र. सं.	कंपनी का नाम और सीआईएन संख्या	कंपनी का पंजीकृत कार्यालय पता	पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र सं. और तारीख	निरसन आदेश की तारीख
I.	मेसर्स कल्लारक्कल फिनकॉर्प प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (सीआईएन - U65910KA1994PTC015617)	#1101, केबिन नंबर 311/B, तीसरी मंजिल, 24वीं मुख्य, जे पी नगर, पहला चरण, बेंगलोर, कर्नाटक – 560 078	बी-02.00161 दिनांक 30 दिसंबर 2016	27 अप्रैल 2026

2. कंपनी को निदेश दिया गया था कि वह पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र की मूल प्रति लौटा दे, लेकिन उसने इसे बैंक को नहीं सौंपा है। अतएव, आम जनता को एतद्द्वारा सचेत किया जाता है कि यदि किसी को भी कल्लारक्कल फिनकॉर्प प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के नाम पर जारी किए गए उपर्युक्त पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र के दुरुपयोग के बारे में कोई जानकारी मिलती है, तो वह इसकी सूचना भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक को निम्नलिखित पते पर दे सकता है- पता - विनियमन विभाग, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, 10/3/8, नृपतुंग रोड, बेंगलूरु – 560001, ईमेल - dorbengaluru@rbi.org.in.

3. जिन गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनियों के पंजीकरण प्रमाण-पत्र रद्द किए गए हैं, उनके नामों की सूची भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक की आधिकारिक वेबसाइट https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_NBFCList.aspx में प्रकाशित की जाती है, और इसे नियमित रूप से अद्यतन किया जा रहा है।

इसे जनहित में जारी किया गया है।

स्थान: बेंगलूरु **हस्ता/-**
दिनांक: 10 जून, 2026 **महाप्रबंधक**



How a made-in-India antibiotic opens new front against superbugs

Zaynich works by pairing an old antibiotic with a bacteria-neutralising agent. But cost will be a factor

Pushpa.Narayan@timesofindia.com

Sathyamurthy R was in his mid-30s when he was finally cured of tuberculosis. Then came the bad news: he had lost his hearing. In the early 2000s, many patients like him survived tuberculosis. The antibiotic streptomycin, used alongside a cocktail of other drugs, cleared infection from their lungs but also destroyed delicate inner ear cells, making hearing loss permanent.

Former chief scientist of the World Health Organisation Dr Soumya Swaminathan, who was working at National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis in Chennai at the time, says she saw such cases regularly. "We told patients: your TB has to be treated for you to live, we can deal with the disability," she recalls.

It was not the only such trade-off. Doctors recall how typhoid was routinely treated with chloramphenicol, the standard drug of the era. It worked, but carried risk of aplastic anaemia, a condition in which the bone marrow stops producing red blood cells entirely. Patients were told, again, that the alternative was worse. Medicine, Dr Swaminathan says, has always needed better antibiotics — safer ones, more precise ones, and ones that do not extract a toll from people. Antibiotics have improved over the years, but there is a beast even the most modern ones struggle to conquer.

It's called multi-drug resistance, the result of decades of overuse, abuse and misuse that has taught microbes to defeat the drugs entirely. Unlike TB patients who lost their hearing, many now filling India's ICUs are not making it out at all because of drug resistance. Drug-resistant bacterial infections killed nearly 3 lakh Indians in 2019 — the most recent comprehensive data, according to the GRAM Project out in The Lancet — and fewer than one in 13 patients with the most severe resistant infections received an antibiotic capable of treating them. The drugs simply weren't in adequate supply.

A BREAKTHROUGH

An Indian company has now changed that. Last week, Zaynich, developed by Mumbai-based Wockhardt after 14 years of research, got approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The company announced the drug was discovered, developed and commercialised entirely by them.

Doctors say it is precious. Cefepime is a decades-old antibiotic that increasingly struggles against resistant bacteria, which produce enzymes that neutralise it before it can act. But Zaynich combines cefepime with zidebactam, developed by scientists in Mumbai, and disables those enzymes to strengthen cefepime's grip on the bacteria. In clinical trials, the combination achieved a 97% success rate against hardest-to-treat gram-negative hospital-acquired infections. E coli, Klebsiella and Pseudomonas are bacteria that are responsible for a large share of intensive care deaths because they don't respond to standard hospital antibiotics.

OTHERS IN WORKS TOO

In 2024, Enmetazobactam — developed over 16 years by Chennai-based Orchid Pharma — also received FDA approval, targeting a similar class of resistant infections. Several newer antibiotics are in the pipeline. "That's necessary," says Dr Subramanian Swaminathan, infectious disease specialist at Gleneagles Hospitals, Chennai.

The drug resistance problem has spread far beyond major cities. Dr Sujata Rege, an infectious disease specialist at Jupiter Hospital, Pune says overuse of powerful antibiotics had seeped into smaller towns, evident in very sick patients arriving at tertiary hospitals with few treatment options remaining. "Some of the new and expensive antibiotics that we longed to use when we started practice are already resistant now."

Dr Rege speaks of a liver-disease patient from Kolhapur admitted with a gastrointestinal bleed. A hometown hospital had put him on a ceftazidime-avibactam and aztreonam combo without sending blood cultures first. The treatment hadn't worked. When he came to her, Dr Rege found he had an entirely different infection, was in septic shock, and needed a full antibiotic regimen overhaul. "He could have been spared the complications and cost. Stewardship must go hand-in-hand with new drug development."

> Overuse of powerful antibiotics has seeped into smaller towns as well, evident in very sick patients arriving at tertiary hospitals with few treatment options remaining
>
> **Dr Sujata Rege,** INFECTIOUS DISEASES SPECIALIST

Bacteria will adapt to Zaynich too, eventually. "It can be frustrating when you don't have the drug to treat the infection," Dr Subramanian says. "Often, patients spend days in the ICU before the drug turns things around. Sometimes, we lose the patient before the drug works."

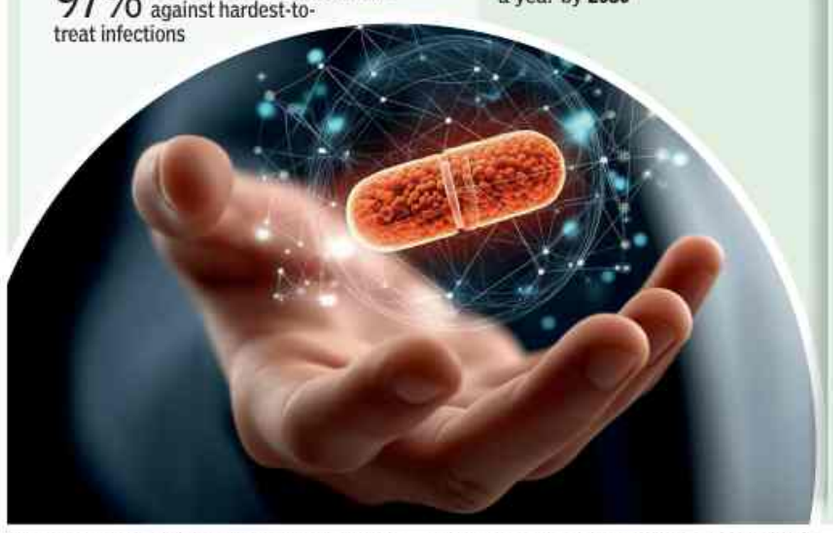
Wockhardt founder-chairman Habil Khorakiwala told **TOI** earlier he estimates peak annual global sales of Zaynich could exceed $1.5 billion. In the US, the drug is expected to cost between $10,000 and $12,000 per treatment course. The company has not yet announced pricing for India. "Most new drugs will be expensive," says Dr Subramanian, adding, "It will also be tough to preserve them unless we are careful about use."

Doctors, public health experts and patients themselves all have a role in determining how long Zaynich, or any other new cutting-edge antibiotic, remains effective. Every unnecessary antibiotic course teaches bacteria something. Zaynich has bought the fight against drug resistance some time. How much time is, in part, up to all of us.

WHAT'S THE NEW DRUG?

- Zaynich is a potent weapon against drug resistance and hospital acquired infections that doctors struggle to treat even with powerful antibiotics
- It treats complicated UTIs and dangerous infections such as E coli and forms of pneumonia that can turn fatal for patients

97% success rate in clinical trials against hardest-to-treat infections



Kills more than cancer

In India, there are nearly **3 lakh direct deaths** from drug-resistant infections, a toll higher than cancer, diabetes & kidney disease combined. Death toll could reach **20 lakh** a year by **2050**

Here are ways to keep drug resistance at bay

Patients must...
- Never take antibiotics for cold, cough or viral fever
- Complete full course even if feeling better
- Never share prescription or use someone else's
- Not buy OTC antibiotics without prescription
- Get vaccinated. Fewer infections means fewer antibiotics
- Ask if culture test has been done before treatment begins, if hospitalised

Doctors must...
- Send blood cultures before starting antibiotics where possible
- Prescribe only when bacterial infection is confirmed
- Switch to narrower drugs when culture results allow, not go by default to broad-spectrum antibiotics
- Report resistant infections to public health authorities

Govt must...
- Enforce prescription-only antibiotic sales
- Regulate antibiotics in agriculture
- Fund antimicrobial research, offer regulatory incentives
- Invest in clean water, sanitation, hospital hygiene

To rinse or not to? Don't brush this question off

Simple habit change can mean better teeth: Dentists

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesofindia.com

Toothpaste needs 30 minutes to do its job. You rinse it off after 2." Last month, Aakash Gupta's X post began with this point to ponder. Soon, the content creator's advice against rinsing right after brushing became viral, sparking a debate. Social media health hacks should be taken with a pinch of salt. But this one seems to have more than a grain of truth.

Dental experts **TOI** contacted say the central message is largely correct, although the extent of benefit may vary with the toothpaste being used. Gupta had posted that the chemistry that helps strengthen teeth continues long after brushing ends. So, rinsing that fluoride toothpaste with water immediately after brushing may wash away much of its protective effect.

Fluoride's effectiveness depends partly on how long it remains in contact with teeth, agrees Dr Ankur Rustagi, a dental surgeon at Medanta, Gurgaon. "When people rinse with water right after brushing, they greatly reduce the fluoride concentration in the mouth, limiting its ability to support effective remineralisation. One of the most practical recommendations is to spit out excess toothpaste and avoid rinsing right away."

According to dentists, tooth enamel is constantly exposed to acid attacks from bacteria, sugary foods and acidic beverages. These acids temporarily draw minerals out of the enamel, weakening its surface. After eating, saliva naturally repairs this damage over the next 30-60 minutes by restoring lost minerals, while fluoride helps make the repaired enamel more resistant to future acid attacks. The recommendation against a post-brush rinse is particularly relevant as tooth decay remains one of the most common chronic health problems worldwide. Even small improvements in fluoride exposure can, over time, lead to better cavity protection.

However, the "30-minute rule" may not be necessary, points out Dr Vibhuti Jain, senior consultant, dental department, PSRI Hospital, Delhi. "Even waiting 15-20 minutes before rinsing can help fluoride remain in saliva longer and support enamel repair," she says.

Enamel is primarily made of hydroxyapatite, a mineral vulnerable to acid damage. Fluoride helps convert part of it into fluorapatite, a more acid-resistant form that offers greater protection against tooth decay. Many people are unaware that toothpaste continues working after brushing ends, says Dr Sageer Aazaz, head of Dentistry at Paras Health, Gurgaon. "Leaving a thin layer of fluoride on the teeth may improve long-term cavity protection."

However, experts caution that the advice may not apply equally to every toothpaste in the market. Newer hydroxyapatite-based toothpastes designed for enamel repair and sensitivity control may behave differently from conventional fluoride-based products, says Dr Ashish Kakar, prosthodontist and cosmetic dentist at Apollo Hospital. He explains that advanced hydroxyapatite particles can penetrate and block microscopic dentinal tubules more effectively, helping repair enamel and reduce sensitivity. "The idea behind not rinsing immediately is to increase contact time between toothpaste and enamel so the active ingredients remain longer in the mouth. But I don't think this applies equally to all formulations. It depends on the molecular structure and configuration of the ingredients being used." Dr Kakar adds that modern toothpastes are designed for multiple purposes, including whitening, sensitivity reduction, gum protection and enamel repair, making it important to consider the formulation when evaluating such recommendations.

Despite these nuances, dentists broadly agree on the practical takeaway: brushing should not necessarily end with an immediate rinse. While not rinsing is not a substitute for proper oral hygiene, delaying that post-brushing rinse may be one of the simplest changes people can make to help fluoride do its job more effectively.

TIMES NATION

8 killed as illegal fireworks warehouse explodes

Dishank.Purohit@timesofindia.com

Jaipur: Eight people were killed when a fire triggered explosions at an illegal fireworks warehouse in Jaipur's Kho Nagoriyan area Tuesday, sending panic through the densely populated neighbourhood, police said.

The blaze broke out around 11 am at a warehouse in the Talai area, said SHO Om Prakash Matwa, confirming eight deaths. Injured workers were taken to the burns ward of SMS Hospital. Sources said some victims had suffered burns on nearly 95% of their bodies.

Police identified the victims as Mohammad Ashraf, 40, of Dundiyon Ki Dhani, Kho Nagoriyan; Mohammad Rabil, 16, of Karim Nagar, Talai; Abdul Wahid, 46, of Rahim Nagar; Sameer Khan, 20, of Rahim Nagar; Bilal, 28, of Rahim Nagar; Azim, 18, of Rahim Nagar; and Nasir Khan, 25, of Rahim Nagar. One victim was charred beyond recognition. Azim and Bilal were brothers.

Sameer's brother, Mohammad Saad, said he rushed to the site after receiving a call. "We somehow pulled him out and rushed him to hospital in an ambulance," he said.

Police sources said the building owner had rented the premises to a group refilling gunpowder for firecrackers, with finished fireworks transported out of Jaipur. "Neither the police nor the administration had any inkling of its existence," sources said.

Residents described hearing a loud blast, followed by rapid explosions as stored firecrackers detonated. Liaqat, who lives next to the warehouse, said he locked his house and fled with his family after the explosion. Another resident, Fakruddin, said a severely burnt man collapsed at his doorstep. Fakruddin's wife said the victim's skin was almost completely burnt and he kept pleading for water.

Locals tried to put out the fire before firefighters arrived, forming bucket chains and calling for a water tanker. Residents said three to four people were pulled out during the rescue. One person died at the scene from severe burns.

Horse gives furious thumbs down to NRI's carrot treat

Vishal.Patadiya@timesofindia.com

Surat: A 49-year-old NRI narrowly avoided permanent disability after a horse bit off the tip of his thumb at a farmhouse in Mangrol on Sunday morning, with surgeons in Surat successfully reattaching the severed digit through a time-critical microsurgery.

The incident occurred when the NRI was feeding a horse carrots and other items at his farmhouse. The animal suddenly bit him, tearing off his thumb with such force that only a long tendon remained attached to the severed part. He was rushed to a private hospital in Adajan where a team comprising a plastic surgeon, anaesthetist and support staff conducted an emergency microsurgery to reattach the thumb.

Dr Viral Patel, plastic and reconstructive surgeon who led the procedure, said: "This was a microsurgery done using a microscope as it involves joining very small blood vessels and arteries. In such incidents of body parts being severed, six hours are considered the golden period." Doctors also reconstructed the damaged tendon and repositioned it during the procedure. They also used a small wire to stabilize the fracture caused by the bite. As the injury involved an animal bite, the patient was given a rabies vaccine along with rabies immunoglobulin as a precaution.

Dalit student killed; nails were driven into his legs

Upper-Caste Girl's Dad, Grandfather Held For Murder

Kalyan.Das@timesofindia.com

Ketan Lal, a class 12 student, had been friends with the girl for the past six months, police said. The incident took place in Lambgaon area on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, and came to light after Ketan's father informed police that his son had been attacked

Dehradun: An 18-year-old Dalit student died after he was allegedly held captive and assaulted through the night by family members of a minor upper-caste girl in Tehri Garhwal district, with his father alleging that nails were hammered into his son's legs during the attack. Police arrested the girl's father, Yashbir Singh Panwar, and grandfather, Vidyadutt Panwar, and registered a case of murder under BNS (BNS) and relevant sections of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Ketan Lal, a class 12 student, had been friends with the girl for the past six months, police said. The incident took place in Lambgaon area on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, and came to light after Ketan's father informed police that his son had been attacked. An FIR was registered against Yashbir and unidentified others under BNS sections 103(1) (murder), 3(5) (common intention), and section 3(2)(v) of the SC/ST Act.

Ketan's father, a farmer, said Yashbir called him Monday and asked in a threatening tone where his son was. "I went to his room and found him missing. When I said he was not there, Yashbir told me he had killed him, his friend, and that I should come and take the bodies," he said. He added that he immediately alerted the father of Ketan's friend, Diwakar, before rushing to Yashbir's village, where both boys were found with multiple injuries.

Ketan was taken to a nearby hospital but succumbed to his injuries. His father said his son narrated the assault on the way. "My son told me the girl had called him on Sunday night and asked him to meet her at home. He took his friend Diwakar along, but as soon as they reached there, the girl's family members, including her father and grandfather, caught them and took them to a room. They hammered nails into the legs of my son," he said, alleging that casteist slurs were also hurled during the assault. Diwakar, who sustained serious injuries to his head and body, remained under treatment. On Tuesday, a panel of doctors at Tehri Garhwal district hospital conducted Ketan's post-mortem, and police said they were awaiting the report to ascertain the exact nature and extent of injuries.

Dinesh Shah, former head of Ketan's village, said the accused had no right to take the law into their own hands. "If the boys were at fault, the girl's family should have informed their families or police. Who gave them the right to torture a boy to death?" he said, demanding strict action against all those involved.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E- Tender Notice

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/26/19, Dated: 05/06/2026. PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. **Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cost are as follows : [047]; 14262978;** Pantograph For AC Freight Electric Locomotives With 5% Extra Throttle Valve As Manufacturing Spares To Drg./Spec. No. RDSO/08/EL/SPEC/0066, Rev. '0' AMD. No.-1 DT. 31.12.08 with Amendment No-2 To Modification Sheet No. ELRS/MS/ 0333 REV 'O' DATED 20-12-2004 & RDSO/ELRS/EL/MS/0389 Rev 'o' dated 31-08-10; As Per Tender/Document; **26/06/2026;** ₹ 0.00. **[048]; 14262508;** Scavenge Blower To TM/OIL Cooling Unit Including Motor (Wound With Corona Resistance Wire) To Drg./Specn. No. (1) CLW/ES/3/0021/H & (2) Spec/E-10/3/09 (Motor) With Amendment No. 01 to 06; As Per Tender/Document; **29/06/2026;** ₹0.00. **[049]; 14262692;** High Voltage Bushing To Drg./Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0052/E; As Per Tender/Document; **02/07/2026;** ₹0.00. **[050]; 14262510;** Machine Room Blower Including Motor (Wound With Corona Resistance Wire) To Drg./Spec. No. (1) CLW/ES/3/0020/H & (2) SPEC/E- 10/3/09 (Motor) With Amendment Nos. 01 TO 06; As Per Tender/Document; **06/07/2026;** ₹0.00. **[051]; 14262512;** Traction Motor Blower Including Motor (Wound With Corona Resistance Wire) To Drg./Specn. No. (1) CLW/ES/3/0019/G & (2) SPEC/E-10/3/09 (Motor) With Amendment Nos. 01 TO 06; As Per Tender Document; 26/06/2026; ₹0.00. **[052]; 14262932;** High Voltage Cable With Plug To Drg./Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0251 Rev-2; As Per Tender/Document; 08/07/2026; ₹0.00. **[053]; 14262527;** Surge Arrestor As Per Drg./Specification No. CLW/ES/3/0016/C; As Per Tender/Document; **14/07/2026;** ₹0.00.

PR7/367 PCMM/CLW/Howrah
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32001/362/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer,
Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur - 760004
e-mail id: se_sicbam@yahoo.com
e-Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB-01/2026-27

1. Type of Work : Canal Road work & Canal Lining work
2. Total No of Works : 06 (Six) Nos.
3. Amount put to tender : Varies from **Rs. 507.62 Lakh** to **Rs. 463.31Lakh**
4. Period of completion : **11** (Eleven) calendar months
5. Paper Cost : **Rs. 10000/-** per each
6. Class of Contractor : **'A' Class of Contractor**

Sl. No.	Procurement officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line	Date and Place of opening of Technical Bids online
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur	ACE, RBB (CHID) - 01/2026-27	507.62	From **17.06.2026**, 10.00 A.M. to **01.07.2026**, 5.00 P.M.	**02.07.2026 (11.30 A.M.)** in the office of the **Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur.**
2		ACE, RBB (CHID) - 02/2026-27	506.98		
3		ACE, RBB (BEID) - 03/2026-27	505.19		
4		ACE, RBB (BEID) - 04/2026-27	504.18		
5		ACE, RBB (CHID) - 05/2026-27	499.49		
6		ACE, RBB (BEID) - 06/2026-27	463.32		

Bidders are to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Govt. of Odisha e-Procurement Web-site **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of the tender can be seen in the above website only.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer,
Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur,
OIPR-32001/32411/1/26-27/0001

GUJARAT INDUSTRIES POWER COMPANY LTD.
TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PRE-ENGG. BUILDING STORAGE SHEDS AT SURAT LIGNITE POWER PLANT (SLPP)

Interested Vendors may submit any one or both Bids on two part basis through (n)Procure for; **(1)** General Civil Works for PEB sheds **(Tender ID is 312517)** and **(2)** PEB Works for sheds **(Tender ID is 312562)**. It can also be viewed from Company's website **www.gipcl.com. The last date of submission of bids is 30/06/2026 up to 17:30 hrs.** CGM (Thermal)

25001/365/2627

E-Mail - sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in
Ph.- 06764-236404

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORKS IN ODISHA
Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL- 09/2025-26

No. 1956 // **Dt. 04.06.2026**

1. Name of the work : Road and bridge works.
2. Total No. of work : 25 Nos.
3. Estimated cost : Rs. 108.25 to Rs.831.93 Lakhs (Approx.)
4. Class of Contractor : As per annexure.
5. Period of completion. : As per annexure.
6. Other details.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Road Online-AGL-09/ 2026-27	16.06.26 at 10.00 A.M	30.06.26 up to 5.00 P.M	29.06.26 upto 1.00 P.M	01.07.26 at 10.00 A.M	Will be intimated separately

For detailed Notice inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Angul.
OIPR-25001/25180/1/26-27/0008

32001/365/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN,
AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:- MAYURBHANJ
Mail Id. cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 04/ 26-27 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1	Name of Work	Restoration and Protection to left bank of river Montei near village Jharkata and Daskhina Dhamara
2	Estimated Cost	Rs.947.63 Lakh
3	EMD	Rs.9,47,700/-
4	Period of Completion	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
5	Class of Contractor	"A" Class and "Special" Class
6	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	18.06.2026 at 10.00 AM
7	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	02.07.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
8	Date of opening of bid	03.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.
9	Name & Address of the O.I. T	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin,
Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj
OIPR-32001/32429/1/26-27/0002

Nālandā UNIVERSITY
Rajgir, Dist. - Nalanda, Bihar-803116
Under the aegis of Ministry of External Affairs, GoI

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER NIT No.: NU/Engg (Civil)/2026-27/01
LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION EXTENDED UP TO 11:00 AM on 25.06.2026

Nalanda University, an avant-garde International University, invites online e-Tenders for **"CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT WORKS OF 38 STUDENT HOSTEL BUILDINGS AT NALANDA UNIVERSITY, RAJGIR, BIHAR."**

The detailed NIT along with terms & conditions for application can be downloaded from the Nalanda University's official website: https://nalandauniv.edu.in/tenders/, https://nalandauniv.ewizard.in/ & https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app

For any further updates please visit regularly NU Tender portal https://nalandauniv.edu.in/tenders/

The 2nd Pre-bid meeting is scheduled in online / physical mode on 13.06.2026 at 11:00 AM onwards. Online meeting link shall be uploaded in https://nalandauniv.edu.in/tenders/

For any further query: please e-mail to **phase1.tender@nalandauniv.edu.in**

Sd/-
Registrar

LARSEN & TOUBRO

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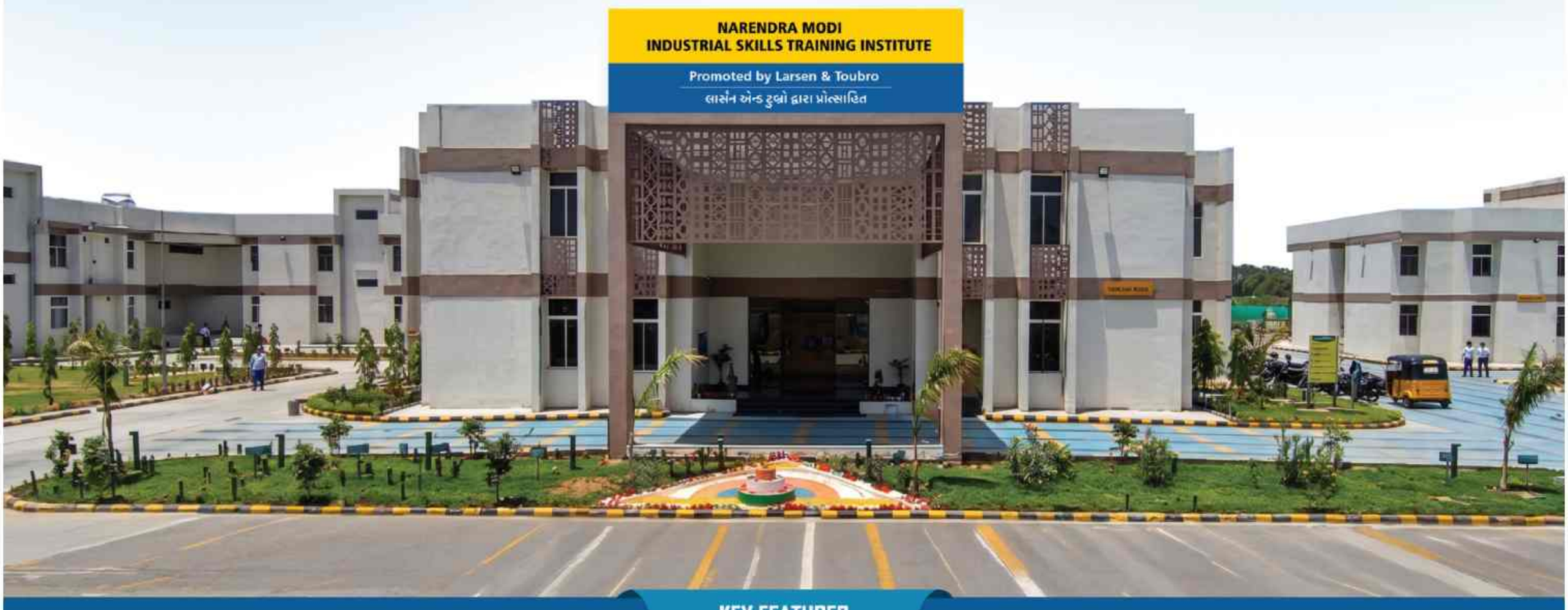
FROM THE BIRTHPLACE OF OUR HON'BLE PM, L&T PROUDLY PAYS TRIBUTE THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NARENDRA MODI INDUSTRIAL SKILLS TRAINING INSTITUTE, VADNAGAR ON THIS OCCASION.



KEY FEATURES

- Academic Block
- Electrical Workshop
- Welding & Pipe Fitting Workshop
- Formwork Yard
- Plumbing and Tiling Yard
- Masonry Yard
- Bar Bending Yard
- Scaffolding Yard
- EHS Training Facilities
- Residential Facilities for Men and Women

'India's growth ambition is valid — 99% can get richer without climate disaster'

__Thomas Piketty__ is Professor at EHESS and the Paris School of Economics. Author of works like 'Capital and Ideology', Piketty spoke from Paris with __Srijana Mitra Das__ at __Times Evoke__ about the Global Justice Project and its new findings on how most of us can grow more affluent — without wrecking Earth:

Photo Courtesy: T Piketty

TE EXCLUSIVE IDEAS

JUSTICE FOR ALL: Piketty's research aims for shared global well-being

What is the Global Justice Project you're working on?

■ The Global Justice Project (GJP) brings together 45 authors using databases compiled by over 200 researchers from around the world. The key question we ask is — can there be common prosperity on Earth without breaking our planetary limits? Let's assume every country in the future reaches a similar level of prosperity — what will this mean and how can it be done?

Our starting point is aspiration in the Global South — particularly in India — to reach the same level of prosperity as the Global North has. This aspiration is not going to go away. It needs to be taken seriously by the Global North. Of course it's easier for the world to stay under 2°C if a big part of it remains much poorer than the Global North — but that part is unlikely to accept this situation for much longer.

So, our GJP report asks — how can we get common prosperity and what will that scenario look like? Today, Gross National Income per capita ranges from under 300 euros per month in sub-Saharan Africa to 700 in South Asia and nearly 5,000 in North America. So, there is a huge gap. We ask if it's possible to get all countries to around 5,000 euros per month in per capita income by 2100. This means average incomes in countries of the Global North will not grow much beyond a point while countries in the South will converge to this level. How is all this doable, keeping in mind planetary stability?

Our work finds it is possible to achieve this — but it relies on three big conditions. The first is, we must ban fossil fuels and adopt low-carbon energy. This means enormous investments taking place in the next two to three decades in wind turbines, solar panels, etc. The second is a new idea of 'sufficiency' we offer here — we need to think about the sectoral functions of production and consumption now. The growth of manufacturing, construction and the material sector will have to stop somewhere — in countries like India, our projection finds these will grow enormously but for more advanced economies, there is no need to have 10 iPhones per person.

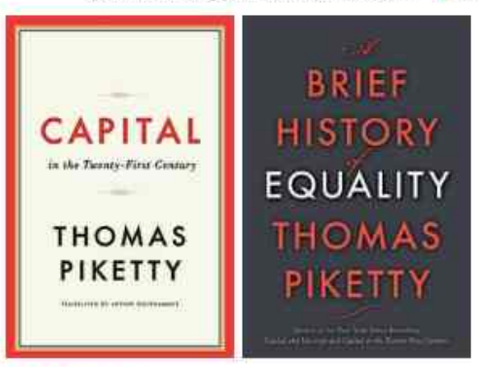
At some point, we must stop consuming so much and shift part of the GDP to non-material sectors — namely education and health, whose carbon footprint is much smaller than manufacturing. As nations grow richer, they must start this transition from material to immaterial sectors. This is good for both climate stability and social welfare. Another point here is changing our food habits — the consumption of red meat is a huge driver of deforestation and this in particular must be reduced. If the entire world, including India, began eating as much red meat as the average American does, just the land area needed for grazing animals people eat would imply tremendously fast deforestation.

The third pillar is the contraction of inequality. We are in a situation today where the bottom half of humanity owns just 2% of global wealth. We have to change this but we need to pay for the enormous shifts the GJP suggests for this — if you ask the middle class to pay for these, that will not work. So, we are calling for a global wealth tax rising to 20% a year on billionaires as a component towards a world sovereign fund for these changes, with 10% of the world's capital stock, a global income tax and a world wealth tax, each impacting 1% of the world's population.

Many politicians globally are backed by billionaires or are busy becoming the same — why would they agree to increasing taxes on them?

■ At some point, they will have to bend to democratic forces. There is huge popular support in favour of a billionaire tax worldwide. Eventually, it will become impossible for the elite to resist this.

Also, if leaders want political support from the bottom 90% in the rich North, this strategy will be required to give that bottom half a rising income trajectory.



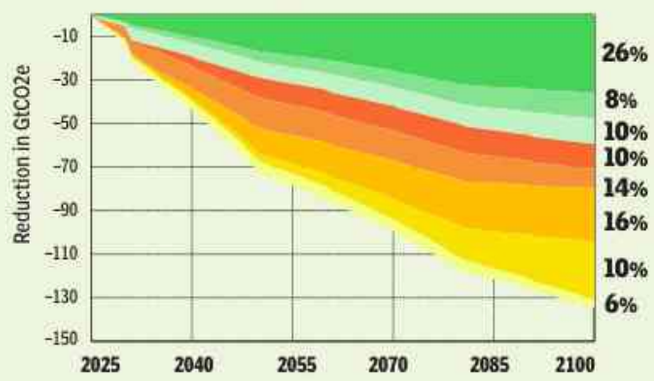
RICHER IDEAS: In an era glorifying wealth, power and consumption, Piketty has turned the spotlight back to inequality and the factors that cause this

Getty Images

WE GROW — YOU SLOW: India's aim to grow economically like the West is legitimate but, as Piketty says, the Global North's nations will have to slow down consumption and production for this to happen with ecological balance

INDEED WE CAN

The GJP shows sufficiency and energy transition are complementary: https://globaljusticeproject.wid.world



To my mind, the rise of progressive wealth taxation in the 21st century is similar to the growth of income taxation in the 20th century. Back then, people did not want to even hear about income tax. They were very resistant to their books looked into or having to forsake some money — they were convinced this would be the end of the modern economy and the collapse of all innovation. Yet, this occurred everywhere and if anything, there was much more growth, greater productivity rise and more prosperity.

I believe the same will happen with progressive wealth taxation in the 21st century — of course billionaires and their beneficiaries will complain. At the time of the French Revolution, you wouldn't expect the aristocracy to agree with the end of their privileges. The colonial elite never wanted independence for India or Africa — they wanted empire to continue forever. Men do the same thing vis-a-vis women. However, as the course of history shows us, these positions of power and constructions of status are less rigid than thought.

Our report does state this is not going to happen easily though. One of the issues we highlight, for instance, is worktime reduction, an important topic in the Global North. In India, growing rich is the priority now but as nations prosper, reducing worktime and having more personal time in hand will become important to many. Again, this is a continuation of a historical trend — in 1900, an average worker in the world worked 3,000 hours per year. Today, this is 2,000 hours annually in the world while in Europe, it's 1,500 hours, with a target of 1,000 by 2100. This echoes what John Maynard Keynes wrote in the 1930s in letters to his grandchildren where he said we will work less than 10 hours a day. We are not there yet — but there is a continuation.

None of this will be simple to do. In the past, it took enormous social struggles and political mobilisation to get similar outcomes. It won't get easier in the future but people will want more time for their own selves and they will also look beyond acquiring more and more material goods. Also, unlike the past, we are now aware of our planetary vulnerability. So, as productivity gains continue, in rich economies, most of these will have to go into shorter working hours.

It's the same for the billionaire tax — doing this won't be simple but it is the continuation of many evolutions which have already occurred.

Today, however, we have social media — largely owned by the super-rich — which normalises over-consumption and 'billionaire-ism', making these popular even among the less rich. How can these notions be navigated?

■ This question resounds differently in diverse regions. For India, the aspiration to grow and be on par with Europe and North America is legitimate. Our work seeks to make this desire compatible with planetary abilities. We must recognise that the billionaires of the world, and particularly those of the Global North, became rich by contributing a great deal to emissions and global warming. It is only fair to ask them to pay to the Global Justice Fund which will empower countries of the Global South to grow rich without using as much fossil fuels.

Why would billionaires agree to this?

■ Importantly, these changes will help avoid catastrophic climate change — that will also benefit rich people. It's a complex idea but honestly, the alternatives are hardly very good. Our projections have found that even if everyone in the world grows twice as rich as our target proposes, but worktime remains the same, and corresponds to consumerist ideologies, this comes with global warming over 4°C.

We are all better off with 1.8°C and 5,000 euros a month rather than having 10,000 euros and 4°C hotter. Once you cross 3°C, particularly in a country like India, you are truly heading towards climate catastrophe — having more income then with such life conditions is hardly very appealing. We need more people to realise the gravity of this.

However, perceptions also do change fast — with the heatwaves India's been having, and the climate events other places worldwide will experience in the next decade, people will find billionaires flying around on their private jets to give lectures to everyone else less and less acceptable over time.

You say multilateral banks like the IMF and World Bank are 'plutocratic' and unsuited to usher in such changes — so, who can do this?

■ Our report's main message is — to solve our development and climate challenges, we must move from global plutocracy to global democracy. We stress how Europe and North America now have voting rights at the IMF and World Bank which are four times larger than their share in world population — meanwhile, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia have voting rights four times smaller than their share in world population. There is thus a huge gap in the voting right of an Indian citizen versus a French or American one. For countries which like to describe themselves as favouring universalist values and democratic rights, there is a problem here.

Our international systems are actually fairly similar to what Britain and France had in the 19th century when rich people had greater voting rights than the poor — of course, with that arrangement, it was very difficult to have any redistribution or reduction of social inequality. Huge battles took place before political changes could occur — only then could social security, public education, health services, etc., come about.

We believe the same thing must happen at the international level now — as long as these plutocratic rules govern such institutions, it will be very difficult to change things. At 2024's G20 Summit, Brazil and South Africa pushed for a global wealth tax — if India supports this, the Global South coalition for economic and climate justice will become too strong for Western nations to resist.

We now need a truly democratic voting rights system at the IMF, World Bank and the Global Justice Fund we propose — funding decisions should not be tied to GDP or income and each nation should be the same in the decision-making process. People will have different ideas about such changes — but let's start the conversation.

History plays a role in your research — there haven't been reparations for colonialism, which damaged societies and ecologies, nor climate funding and green technology transfers from Global North to South. What kind of 'justice' is the Global Justice Project looking at?

■ I fully agree. Our report offers tools particularly for countries of the Global South to create a shared platform to pursue these goals. Our work finds technically and economically, these changes bringing everyone shared prosperity is realistic — they are a matter of political will. The Global North must accept their 'unending' growth has to end at some point — with a contraction in inequality, most people around the world will benefit and we can also avoid climate disaster.

This will require a significant transfer of resources from the global rich, particularly in the North, to the South — but the GJP Report stresses this is not a transfer. This is a very partial reparation. In our work, we've tried to provide estimates of past climate damages along with the losses caused by colonialism, imperialist extraction, slavery and unpaid labour. If you accumulate all the damages caused by these, the transfer should actually be a lot bigger than what we note — to be in line with history, it should be four times larger to deliver complete reparations.

Our work offers ways for people to think about today's climate scenario together with inequality, history and views on reparations and justice. Our website (https://globaljusticeproject.wid.world) has all the data series which people can use and design their own scenarios — we need to have this collective conversation.

This is especially important for the Global South because that is where change will come from. Many people in the Global North don't get it — I'm trying to present development issues with climate challenges in politics in my own country, France, but many people here still see these as small issues and don't grasp the big picture. However, at some point, with the growing size of the Global South in the world economy, people will have to listen to it. Otherwise, BRICS led by China and Russia will make their own institutions — now, pressure coming from the more democratic nations of the Global South can convince the North about these strategies. India can have the most important role here as the world's largest electoral democracy. Despite the disputes over that, I do believe in India as the largest democracy and the economic power of the 21st century. India could truly transform the situ-ation.

Views expressed are personal

"I believe in India as the world's largest electoral democracy and the 21st century's economic force — it can make the Global South's coalition for wealth and climate justice very powerful'

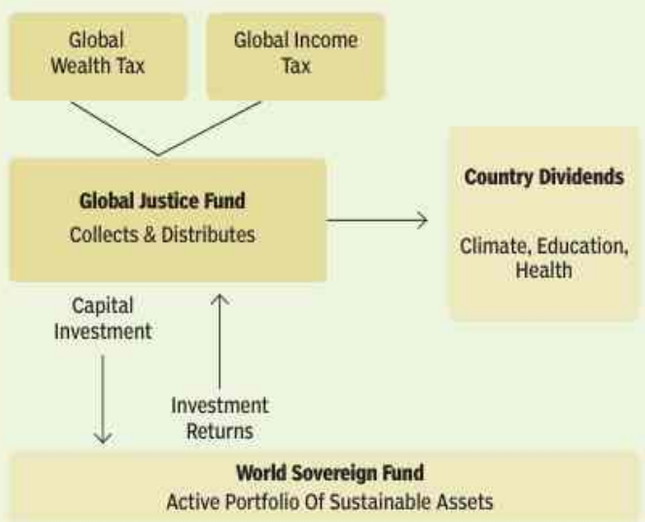
"A global wealth tax can pay for less inequality and more climate stability — as seen in the French Revolution, elites will resist the ending of their privilege but history's trajectory will prevail'

Getty Images

GETTING THE MESSAGE? Billionaires, particularly in the Global North, have contributed greatly to harmful emissions and global warming — it is only fair they pay towards climate reparations which can also correct inequality

FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

The GJP emphasises the Global Justice Fund composed of a world wealth tax and income tax: globaljusticeproject.wid.world



Share your thoughts at:
timesevoke@timesofindia.com
Read Times Evoke online at:
www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/times-evoke

12 Years of Statesmanship:
Powering Gujarat, Transforming Bharat

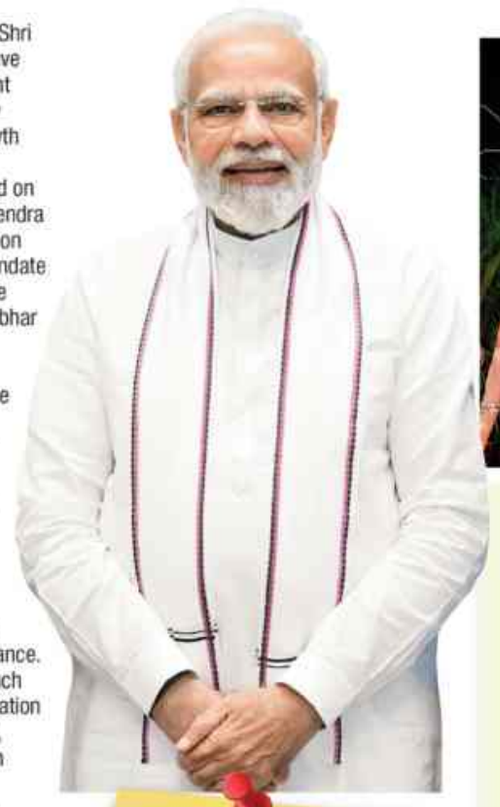
Twelve years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership have helped shape a stronger Bharat while accelerating Gujarat's growth through a series of landmark initiatives, transformative projects and long-awaited developmental milestones

Twelve years of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership have reshaped Bharat's development trajectory while unlocking new opportunities, infrastructure and growth engines across Gujarat.

Twelve years ago, Bharat embarked on a new chapter of governance as Narendra Modi took oath as the Prime Minister on 26 May 2014, following a historic mandate in the general elections. Guided by the vision of building a Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat, his leadership continued to earn the trust and support of the people, resulting in a third consecutive term in 2024. Thus, 26 May 2026 marks the completion of 12 years of transformative leadership that has helped shape a stronger and globally respected Bharat.

Over these years, the country has witnessed far-reaching transformation across sectors through decisive policymaking, rapid development and people-first governance. Landmark decisions and initiatives such as the abrogation of Article 370, Operation Sindoor and the Surgical Strikes, GST, the UPI and RuPay revolution, Swachh Bharat Mission, the Triple Talaq ban, Make in India, Ayushman Bharat, the Semiconductor Mission and the Ram Mandir consecration have transformed the country's developmental and social landscape. From infrastructure and digital connectivity to welfare outreach and India's growing global stature, this journey has reshaped people's aspirations and confidence, infusing new momentum into the nation's growth story.

For Gujarat, these years have witnessed the fulfilment of several long-cherished aspirations and the opening of new possibilities. Guided by the vision of 'Viksit Gujarat for a Viksit Bharat', a series of landmark decisions and transformative initiatives have left a lasting imprint on the state's development journey, shaping its growth story for generations to come.



From water security and world-class infrastructure to industrial expansion, renewable energy and cultural resurgence, Gujarat's growth story has gained remarkable momentum over the past 12 years

ALL PIC CREDIT: GOVT. OF GUJARAT

Gujarat's growth milestones

- Sardar Sarovar Dam reaches full operational capacity
- Six Gujarat cities selected under the Smart City Mission
- Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train project underway
- Expansion of Vande Bharat and Namo Bharat connectivity
- Sudarshan Setu strengthens Dwarka–Bet Dwarka access
- WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine established in Jamnagar
- Bulk Drug Park approved at Jambusar
- PM MITRA Park boosts textile manufacturing ecosystem
- Tata Aircraft Complex advances aerospace manufacturing
- Dahod locomotive facility strengthens Make in India
- Semiconductor facilities inaugurated at Sanand
- Khavda Renewable Energy Park drives green growth
- RE-Invest Global Renewable Energy Meet hosted in Gandhinagar
- Statue of Unity emerges as a global tourism landmark
- National Maritime Heritage Complex takes shape at Lothal
- Vadnagar Archaeological Experiential Museum inaugurated
- Technical cooperation agreement advances Kalpasar vision

WATER SECURITY: TURNING A LONG-AWAITED VISION INTO REALITY

During his 13-year tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi worked consistently to fulfil the decades-old aspiration of raising the Sardar Sarovar Dam to its full height, a vision deeply connected with the hopes of millions across the state. This vision became a reality when, within just 17 days of assuming office as Prime Minister, he approved the installation of gates on the dam, enabling it to reach full capacity and marking a defining moment in Gujarat's development journey. In March 2015, Gujarat also received ₹763 crore in pending crude royalty dues, resolving a long-standing issue and providing additional financial support to the state.

REIMAGINING GUJARAT'S CITIES FOR THE FUTURE

In June 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Smart City Mission, under which Gujarat secured six cities — Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Gandhinagar and Dahod — setting in motion a structured phase of urban transformation.

Ahmedabad evolved into a modern urban centre through projects such as BRTS, Metro Rail, the Sabarmati Riverfront, Atal Foot Over Bridge and the Narendra Modi Stadium. Surat strengthened its identity as a global commercial hub through Dream City, Surat Diamond Bourse, Surat Metro and upgraded infrastructure. Vadodara advanced as an industrial and mobility centre through the Tata Aircraft Complex for C-295 manufacturing and the National Rail and Transportation Institute. Rajkot expanded its urban ecosystem with AIIMS Rajkot, Hirasar Greenfield Airport and Smart City initiatives. Gandhinagar grew further with GIFT City, metro connectivity, Mahatma Mandir and Dandi Kutir.

CONNECTING PEOPLE, PILGRIMAGE AND POSSIBILITIES

A landmark step in connectivity came with the Mumbai–Ahmedabad Bullet Train project, bringing India's major economic corridors closer in time and opportunity.

In September 2022, Gujarat received its first Vande Bharat Express, marking a new chapter in modern rail connectivity. Today, multiple Vande Bharat trains serve the state, while the Namo Bharat Rapid Rail between Bhuj and Ahmedabad has further strengthened fast and efficient regional transportation. The Taranga Hill–Ambaji–Abu Road railway line, spanning 116.65 km and estimated at ₹2,798 crore, will further expand the state's rail connectivity, improve access to key pilgrimage centres and benefit around 100 villages in the region.

In October 2022, the foundation stone was laid for the world's first CNG terminal port at Bhavnagar, a project expected to create new opportunities in cargo transportation and maritime infrastructure. This momentum continued with the inauguration of Sudarshan Setu in February 2024, improving connectivity between Dwarka and Bet Dwarka through India's longest cable-stayed bridge.

BUILDING INSTITUTIONS FOR TOMORROW'S BHARAT

As the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi envisioned the state as a hub for sector-specific higher education and skill development. This vision led to the establishment of Gujarat Forensic Science University and Raksha Shakti University, institutions that later earned national status as the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU).

The focus on specialised education continued. On 5 September 2018, the National Rail and Transportation Institute was inaugurated in Vadodara, making Gujarat home to the country's first university dedicated to railway and transportation studies and further strengthening its position as a centre for sector-focused education and research.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO HOUSING, HEALTHCARE AND RESEARCH

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Rajkot was selected for the Light House Project, a unique initiative showcasing next-generation construction technology. Inaugurated by the Prime Minister in 2021, the project delivered 1,144 affordable, disaster-resilient homes built using advanced French monolithic construction technology, providing beneficiaries with safe, durable and earthquake-resistant housing.

The world's first WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine was established in Jamnagar. The centre serves as a global platform for research and innovation in traditional systems of medicine, including Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.

A major step towards strengthening the pharmaceutical ecosystem came with the approval of the Bulk Drug Park at Jambusar in Bharuch. Spread across more than 2,000 hectares and planned at a cost of over ₹2,500 crore, the project is expected to strengthen domestic bulk drug manufacturing and reduce dependence on imports.

FROM GLOBAL RECOGNITION TO INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP

India's G20 Presidency provided a significant opportunity for Gujarat to showcase its development achievements on the global stage. The state hosted 18 of the nearly 200 meetings organised across India, presenting its infrastructure, investment potential, cultural heritage and governance initiatives before delegates from around the world.

The momentum of industrial growth received a further boost with the PM MITRA Park at Vansi-Borsi in Navsari. Envisioned as an integrated textile manufacturing ecosystem, the project is expected to strengthen the entire textile value chain, attract investments and create new employment and export opportunities.

Another milestone came in the aerospace and defence sector with the Tata Aircraft Complex at Vadodara, inaugurated in October 2024. As India's first private-sector final assembly line for military aircraft, the facility is manufacturing C-295 aircraft, with the first aircraft having been delivered recently, contributing to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat while generating substantial employment opportunities.

The focus on advanced manufacturing also extends to Dahod, where a major railway locomotive production facility has been established under the Make in India initiative. In May 2025, the first 9,000 HP locomotive rolled out from the facility, strengthening India's railway manufacturing ecosystem while creating employment and industrial opportunities.

The state's growing prominence in advanced technology and manufacturing received another boost with the inauguration of Micron Technology's ATMP facility and the Kaynes Semiconductor OSAT facility at Sanand in 2026. These projects have further strengthened Gujarat's emergence as a key destination for semiconductor manufacturing in India.

LEADING INDIA'S GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION

A new dimension has been added to the state's growth story through the Khavda Renewable Energy Park in Kutch. Envisioned as the world's largest hybrid renewable energy park, the project will strengthen India's clean energy capacity, generate large-scale employment and position the region at the forefront of the country's green energy transition.

Gujarat has also strengthened its position in India's clean energy transition. In September 2024, Gandhinagar hosted the RE-Invest Global Renewable Energy Meet and Expo, bringing together policymakers, investors and industry leaders from across the world and reinforcing the state's leadership in renewable energy.

PRESERVING HERITAGE, CELEBRATING IDENTITY

The inauguration of the Statue of Unity in 2018 gave Gujarat a globally recognised landmark while significantly boosting tourism and regional development around Kevadia. Improved connectivity further enhanced access to the region.

The National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal added another dimension to Gujarat's growth story by bringing together heritage, tourism and education while showcasing India's maritime legacy on a global platform.

India's first Archaeological Experiential Museum at Vadnagar has created a new platform to showcase the region's rich historical legacy, while Ahmedabad's selection to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games reflects the city's growing global stature. The celebration of Somnath Swabhiman Parv in 2026 further reaffirmed Gujarat's enduring cultural and civilisational significance.

Looking ahead, positive steps have also been taken towards the long-envisioned Kalpasar project. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Netherlands in May 2026, an agreement for technical cooperation was signed to support the project, opening new possibilities for water security and long-term development in Gujarat.

Delivering development, touching lives

From housing and healthcare to agriculture, infrastructure and financial inclusion, Government of India flagship schemes have delivered tangible benefits to millions across Gujarat, driving inclusive growth and improving quality of life

HOUSING AND SANITATION

Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, more than 9.20 lakh houses have been constructed in urban areas and over 7.04 lakh houses have been built in rural areas of Gujarat.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL PROSPERITY

Under PM Kusum Yojana, more than 21,800 farmers had installed off-grid solar pumps as of April 2026, with subsidies exceeding ₹649 crore.

WOMEN, LIVELIHOOD AND SOCIAL WELFARE

The Lakhpati Didi Yojana has enabled 5.96 lakh women to achieve annual incomes exceeding ₹1 lakh.

Over the past 12 years, Gujarat has emerged as a leading performer across key national programmes, with significant gains in housing, sanitation, farmer welfare, women's empowerment, healthcare, renewable energy, entrepreneurship and infrastructure development

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY

Infrastructure development has continued at a rapid pace under major Government of India initiatives. Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 87 railway stations across Gujarat are being redeveloped at an estimated cost of ₹6,303 crore.

HEALTHCARE AND MEDICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has further strengthened healthcare access, with 2.78 crore citizens receiving Ayushman Cards, including 7.39 lakh Vaya Vandana Cards issued to senior citizens.

Twelve years of leadership have not only transformed the nation's development trajectory but have also accelerated Gujarat's progress across sectors. The impact is visible not only in landmark projects and policy reforms, but also in the lives of millions who have gained greater opportunities, improved access to essential services and enhanced quality of life. As Bharat advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, Gujarat continues to play a pivotal role through innovation, manufacturing, renewable energy, infrastructure development and inclusive growth. The story of the last 12 years is not merely one of development, but of building a stronger, more confident and future-ready Bharat.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

PMKVY 4.0 is currently being implemented for the 2022–26 period, continuing efforts to equip young people with industry-relevant skills and enhanced employability opportunities.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Under PM Surya Ghar Yojana, 6.70 lakh rooftop solar systems had been installed across Gujarat as of 20 May 2026, enabling the state to contribute 21% of the country's total rooftop solar installations.

READER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

ET Masterclass

ET THE ECONOMIC TIMES | BUSINESS VERTICALS

BUSINESS STORYTELLING MASTERCLASS

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June 19, 2026 | Mumbai

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Founder & Story Monk

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A TIMES INTERNET INITIATIVE

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Notice No.17/2026-27/CE(GVMC)/SE(W-II)/EE (PW-MDW)/DB, Dt:05-06-2026

Number of Works	: 3 Works
Value of Work	: Rs.2,70,90,723.00
Downloading Starting Date	: 06-06-2026
Downloading Ending Date	: 22.06.2026

Note: Further details at http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
O/o the EE(PW-MDW) Cell No:99480 95518 Sd/- Commissioner, GVMC

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No: VTU/BGM/RE/2026-27/IFT No.33/1077 Date: 09-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) - (Through KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tenders is invited in duplicate from eligible Tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the work of **Construction of Record Rooms at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi. Amounting to Rs. 3,81,21,166/- (Excluding GST).** Other details log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 09-06-2026.**

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/394/Adverto/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY SERVICES,

Office of the Commissioner, Pashupaalana Bhavana, 1st Floor, Opp. to CBI Office, Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560 024.
Email : jdfarmsahvs@gmail.com Ph: 080-23412767

No: CAH/Piggery-Poultry Feed/Short Term-ReTender/Viva-2/2026-27 Dated: 09-06-2026

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(KPP portal mode only)

The Commissioner Of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government Of Karnataka, Bangalore, hereby invites Tender through Website: KPP Portal from eligible tenderers for Supply of Piggery & Poultry Feed for the year 2026-27. Approximate Tendered Amount is **Rs. 448.50 Lakhs.**

Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting KPP Portal website from date: **09-06-2026** and tenderers can upload all the necessary documents through KPP Portal from Date: **09-06-2026 to Date: 23-06-2026 till 5.30 p.m.**

Further information can be obtained from KPP Portal and concerned officer in this office during office hours.

Sd/- Deputy Director (Fodder & Dairy), & Member Secretary, Tender Inviting Committee, Department Of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services,

DIPR/CP/1076/Zen/2026-27

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in
Mobile No. 96461-55525

Open E-Tender Enq. No. 735/P-3/EMPW-13345 **Dt.** 05.06.2026

Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. ID : 2026_POWER_169763_1 for Overhauling of ID fans, FD fans & their auxiliaries, Ducting, Dampers & Gates for 01 unit of 210 MW BHEL make units of 4X210 MW capacity at GGSSTP, Ropar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 09.06.2026/ 05.00 PM onwards.

Note : Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

RTP-53/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/12183

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka

4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041
fo@rguhs.ac.in Tel : +91-80-29601932

Date: 08/06/2026

E- BID NOTIFICATION

The Finance Officer, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites E-bid to "Nationalized Banks for Competitive rate of interest for placing surplus funds only in Nationalized Bank" in Fixed Deposit Rs.390.00 Cr. and Rs.70.00 Cr. For more details please visit KPP portal.

Tender No. RGUHSK/2026-27/AUCTION19 & RGUHSK/2026-27/AUCTION20

More details can be fetched from website
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Finance Officer

DIPR/CP/1050/AKAR/2026-27

Govt. of Karnataka

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru

(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No. KREIS/EE-1/Tender-4/2026-27 **Date:09.06.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement Only)

The Tenders have been invited for Construction of **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Residential School, Pre Metric Boys Hostel, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Post Metric Boys Hostel, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pre Metric Boys Hostel,** in the jurisdiction of KREIS **(Tender Indent No. 604, 823, 826, 824 and 825)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on 09.06.2026. **The last date for receipt of tenders is 08.07.2026**. The details may be viewed at the above website.

Note : Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer-1
KREIS, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC//1062/2026-27

KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of forest (Head of Forest Force) Aranya Bhavan, 18th Cross, Malleswhwaram, Bangalore-560003.

No.: KFD/2026-27/SE1979 Date:09.06.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from contractors through the GoK e-portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** to select a well-established and reputable Professional Consultancy Agency to set up a Programme Management Unit under the Karnataka Forest Department for the year 2026-27.

Last date for uploading tender forms in e-procurement: **01.07.2026 upto 5.30 PM**. Date of opening of technical bids: **03.07.2026 at 12.30 PM.** Financial bids will be opened only if the conditions in the technical bid are successfully fulfilled and bids not fulfilling the conditions will be rejected. Financial bid will be opened on **05.07.2026 at 12-30 PM.**

If no tender is received on the above dates or if the tender is not held due to any reason, the tender will be continued upto **10.07.2026 at 5.30 PM** subject to the conditions of this advertisement (Auto Extension). The technical bid will be opened on **12.07.2026 at 12.30 PM.** The financial bid will be opened on **14.07.2026.**

Further details regarding this tender, Contact the Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Headquarters, Aranya Bhavan, Malleswaram, Bangalore.

Sd/-
Deputy Conservator of Forest (Headquarters)

DIPR/CP/JA/1065/2026-27

Government of Karnataka

Public Works Department

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Mysuru Division, Mysuru.
E-mail: eepwdmys21@gmail.com
Phone No. & Fax No. 0821-2420810

IFT No.03/2026-27/CALL-4 **Dt.08.06.2026**

ITEM WISE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department has published item wise Tender notification for a work approved under H/A:5054-80-190-0-01-132-KRDCL-Capital Expenditure 01 works under this division with KW- 4 Conditions & Regulations with Two cover systems. For above said work **EMD amount is Rs.2.00 Lakhs.** Pre bid Meeting will be held in the under signed office at 11.00 A.M on 11.06.2026. Tenders shall be Submitted in KPP-Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from 08.06.2026 to 16.06.2026 within 17.00 PM.** KPWD Class-III & Above Contractor Registered in KPP-Portal are eligible. More details can be obtained from the office of the under Signed during office hours. Any amendments or modifications in tender notification will be published in KPP-Portal Only.

DIPR/DDMYS/280/KSMCA/194/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2026_KMML_854968_1	Global Tender for Supply of Alumino Silicate Ceramic Bead 16/20

Chavara 09.06.2026 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

IDBI BANK LIMITED

Regd. Off. IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400 005
CIN No: L65190MH2004GOI148838

TENDER FOR RATE CONTRACT FOR PROCUREMENT OF AC UNITS FOR BANK'S BRANCHES/OFFICES PAN INDIA

Applications are invited from reputed and experienced Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for rate contract for Procurement of Air-conditioning Units of various capacities for Bank's Branches / Offices Pan India. For details please visit Bank's website **www.idbi.bank.in** (under the link Notices & Tenders) or contact on 022-66553371/022-66263569. **Last date for submission of tenders is July 02, 2026 upto 3.00 PM.** Any further Corrigenda in respect of the above shall be hosted only on Bank's website and no separate notification shall be issued in the newspapers.

Date: 10th June, 2026 **Sd/-**
Place: Mumbai **DGM (IMD**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 381/SS(D)-II **Dated : 08.06.2026**

Dy. CE/Substation Design/ TS Organization, C-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 900 nos. SCADA-Compatible 11kV Vacuum Circuit Breakers (11kV VCBs). For detailed NIT & Tender Specification, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 08.06.26 (14:00 Hrs) onwards.

Note : Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C 635/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/12177

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of India Undertaking)

E-Tender Notice

On behalf of Divisional Electrical Engineer (Co-ordination), Konkan Railway Corporation Limited, Madgaon invites Sealed Bids are invited from experienced contractors for Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25KV, 50Hz, Single phase, Traction Over Head Equipment for proposed Sarzora station of Konkan Railway of Karwar region. **E-Tender No. KR-KW-EL-T-37-2024-RT-4 Dated 10/06/2026, Cost of work :** ₹ 197.87 lakh (excluding GST). **Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid :** 25/06/2026 up to 15:00 hrs. For further details please visit : www.ireps.gov.in

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, 12th Main, 11th Cross, West of Chord Road, Bengaluru West City Corporation, Bangalore

NO.EE/MLP/TEND/E-PROC/05/2026-27 Date: 08.06.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

TWO COVER SYSTEM

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bengaluru West City Corporation or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD Railways/MES/BBMP or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Improvements of Vijayanandanagara, Someshwaranagara, Shankaranagara and other allied works in Rajeevnagara ward No.46. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 250.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.3.75 Lakhs.**
2.	Improvements to roads, drains and other allied works at Ramakrishnanagara, Parimalanagara and improvements to Nava Nandini park in Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar ward No.47. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 250.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.3.75 Lakhs.**
3.	Improvements of roads, drains and other allied works at Ganesha Block, Saraswathipura, Sathyanarayana Layout and surrounding area in Mahalakshmipura ward no.48. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 250.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.3.75 Lakhs.**
4.	Improvement of roads and drains in Jaimaruthinagara, 35th Main, Spandana Hospital road and Surrounding area in Nalvadi Krishnaraja Odeyar ward no.50. **Estimate Cost : Rs. 250.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs.3.75 Lakhs.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **15.06.2026 after 16:30 Hours. (2)** Last date for Receipt of Queries **18.06.2026 up to 15:00 hours (3)** Pre bid meeting **18.06.2026 at 15:30 hours (4)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is **23.06.2026 up to 16:00 hours (5)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **24.06.2026 after 16:30 hours** through KPP Portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mahalakshmipuram Division, BWCC

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 2			
1.	Re-grading of Brick Flooring, Construction of Surface Drainage System and Repair of Existing Sheds and Corridors including Painting Works in New Cattle pond near MRF Centre, Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh. Est. Cost : Rs. 130.37 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs. 2,60,750/- Time Limit : 06 Months	10.06.2026 To 17.06.2026 upto 12.00 noon	17.06.2026 at 12.00 noon

Note:- All other terms and conditions and complete DNIT are uploaded on website https://etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Roads Division No.2, Room No.304, M.C. Chandigarh

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer(IP-R&D), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender / EMD
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(IP-R&D)/ACE(IP-R&D)-2/476/2026-27		Date: 08.06.2026
1.	Work of Providing, laying 1016 mm dia MS water supply pipeline from Sri Chaitanya Techno School to Sri Vishnu Leela Hotel along Chikkanalli main road to improve the water supply distribution from Cauvery Stage V Haddosiddapura(Doddakanhalli) 48 ML GLR to 110 villages of GBA area coming under Bommanahalli and Mahadevapura zone, BWSSB.	Rs. 397.42 Lakhs / Rs. 5.97 Lakhs

Last date for submission of completed tender documents: **20.06.2026 upto 16:00Hrs.** The tenders will be opened on: **22.06.2026 after 12:00Hrs.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer(IP-R&D).

Office of the Chief Engineer(Used Water Projects), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(UWP)/ACE(UWP-1)/DCE(UWP)/TA/451/2026-27		Date: 08.06.2026
2.	Work of Providing and commissioning of Biogas engine at 60 MLD STP at Challaghatta Valley coming under Executive Engineer (WWM-TV) Division. **(2nd Call).**	Rs. 405.82 Lakhs / Rs. 6.09 Lakhs

Last date & time for submission of completed tender documents: **24.06.2026 upto 17:00Hrs.** The technical tenders will be opened on: **25.06.2026 at 17:30Hrs.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer(Used Water Projects).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/1079/2026-27

Government of Karnataka

Raichur Institute Of Medical Sciences, Raichur

(Govt. Autonomous Institution)
Hydrabad Road, Raichur -584102Phone /Fax-08532-238488/89
Web. www. rims-raichur.comEmail /inforimsraichur@gmail.com

No.RIMS/SUP/TEND/EQP/01/2026-27/Call-2(DME/2026-27/IND2372) Date: 09.06.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Supply of Equipments to Dept. of OBG, Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur under two cover bid system through E-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka.

1) Tender document may be download from E-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from 10.06.2026 2) Tender must be submitted online through E-procurement portal on or before 24.06.2026 upto 4.00 PM 3) Technical bid will be opened on 25.06.2026 at 05.00 PM

Further information may be obtained from above office and from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website.

Sd/- Director
Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences
Raichur

DIP/RCR/106/KSMC&A/108/2026-27

MADHYA PRADESH TOURISM BOARD

Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U75302MP2017NPL043078
6th Floor, Lily Trade Wing, Jahangirabad, Bhopal M.P., India. Pin code-462008
Website : www.tourism.mp.gov.in

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NIT & SYSTEM No.	PROJECT NAME
NIT No. : 3370./योजना/म.प्र.टू.बो/2026 Date 09.06.2026 and SYSTEM No.-2026 MPTB 514286-1. Dated 09.06.2026	1. Request for Proposal for Appointment of Agency for Development of Tourist Experience/Museum & Immersive Experience Centre and for Operations, Maintenance & Management of Ahilya Lok at Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh, India.
NIT No. : 3370./योजना/म.प्र.टू.बो/2026 Date 09.06.2026 and SYSTEM No.-2026 MPTB 514286-2. Dated 09.06.2026	2. Request for Proposal for Appointment of Agency for Development of Experience Curation & Development of Content Immersive Experience Interactive Exhibits in museum and for Operations, Maintenance & Management of Atal Smarak Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India.

MPTB invites offers for "Request for Proposal for Appointment of Agencies for Execution/ Development of projects as detailed above and for Operations, Maintenance & Management of Ahilya Lok Maheshwar and Atal Smarak Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India" The detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from website **https://www.mptenders.gov.in/www.tourism.mp.gov.in** For any other information please contact. Mob. No. +91-9993574567 or e-mail at jdplg.mptb@mp.gov.in. Last Date and Time for online submission of the RFP is **03.07.2026 @ 17:00 Hr.**

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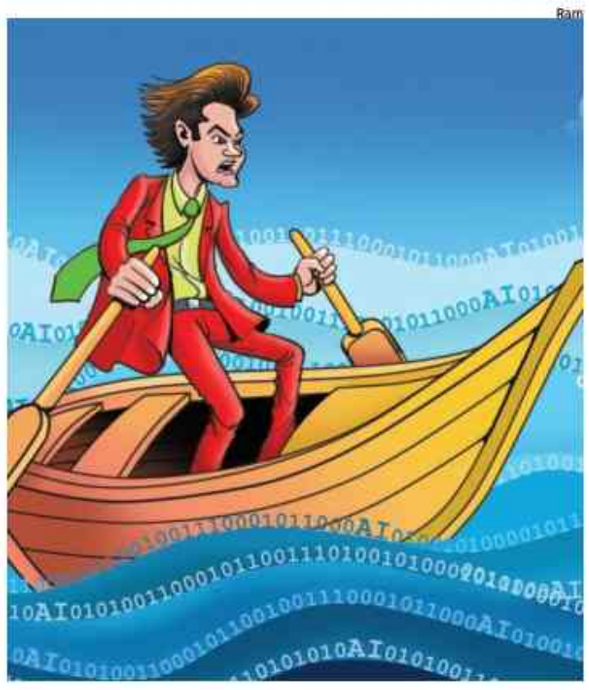
Career Survival In AI Age Has Nothing To Do With AI

It Needs Inimitable Human Skills: Judgement, Ethics & Connection

By Abhijit Bhaduri

The most dangerous career advice circulating right now is this: learn AI tools or become irrelevant. You have certainly heard, "you will be replaced by someone who uses AI." It sounds logical, but it is incomplete. For professionals following it blindly, it may be the wrong bet.



Ram

The real story

Here is what the data is actually showing us. American graduates in computer science and information technology, i.e., the fields most exposed to AI, have seen their full-time employment rates drop by 6.6 percentage points since ChatGPT launched in 2022. Meanwhile, graduates in philosophy, psychology, and education, which are fields seemingly far from technology, have barely been touched. The most AI-fluent people are, right now, among the most displaced.

The careers everyone declared dead, like those built on judgment, communication, ethics, and human relationships, are quietly rising again. The careers everyone said were safe because they were technical are discovering that the machine is unmistakably chasing their shadow.

Build beyond the buzz

If you are early in your career, resist the stampede. The graduates rushing to reskill in coding are entering a field where, as one university director put it, "everything changes all the time." That is not security. That is permanent anxiety. Instead, build what AI cannot easily replicate: the ability to ask better questions, to read a room, to translate complex ideas into human decisions.

An engineer who can explain why a technical solution matters to a business leader will outlast an engineer who can only build it.

The decision premium

If you are a mid- or senior-level professional, your biggest risk is not being replaced. It is irrelevance by overcaution. The productivity miracle employers are striving to achieve is being driven not by tech companies but by professional services and management. These are people who use technology as a lever, not as a substitute.

The senior professionals winning right now are those who have stopped asking "will AI replace me?" and started asking "what decisions can only I make, and how do I make more of them?" The Industrial Revolution offers a sobering mirror. When power looms arrived in England, textile workers rioted and smashed machines. They were not wrong to be afraid, but they were wrong about the solution to the problem. The workers who survived and thrived were not the ones who rejected the machines or became engineers. They were the ones who found the work that sat beside the machine, supervising, designing, selling, and managing the human side of a mechanical world.

We are at that same inflection point. The question is not whether AI will change your job. It will. The question is whether you are building the kind of human capability that sits beside the machine or the kind that the machine is already learning to do better than you. Your career survival kit for the AI age has three items: judgment that comes from experience, relationships that come from trust, and the courage to say what the data cannot.

Everything else, the machine is working on.

(Abhijit Bhaduri is a former global head of learning and development for Microsoft)

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Apply by 25th June 2026 with CV, certificates & publications to:
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K R Puram, Bengaluru - 560 036 | engg.cambridge.edu.in

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Assam – 788 010

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Online applications are invited from Indian Nationals for filling up of the post of **Registrar, Librarian, Assistant Librarian, Executive Engineer, Medical Officer** and **Technical Assistant**. For detailed information, please visit institute website **www.nits.ac.in**.

Further, all interested candidates are requested to visit the Institute website regularly for any update.

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Positions	Requirements
PROFESSORS CSE, ISE, ECE, AI & DS, AIML, Cyber Security	Distinguished Professionals and Senior Academic Leaders with 15 to 20+ years of experience with Expertise in Teaching, Research, Grants, Fund Raising, Leadership, Consultancy, Innovation Projects, Academic Administration and Institutional Growth. Proven Record in Research Publications, Funded Projects, Industry Collaboration, Partnership, Accreditation is Preferred.
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MINORITY

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POST FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27.

UN-AIDED

Sr. No.	CADRE	NO. OF POST	CATEGORY
1	Principal	01	01 - OPEN

The above post is open to all, however candidates from any category can apply for the post.
Reservation for women will be as per **University Circular No. BCC/16/74/1998 dated 10th March, 1998. 4% reservation shall be for the persons with disability as per University Circular No. Special Cell/ICC/2019-20/05 dated 05th July, 2019.**
Candidates having knowledge of Marathi will be preferred.
"Qualification, Pay Scales and other requirement are as prescribed by the UGC Notification dated 18th July, 2018, Government of Maharashtra Resolution No.Misc-2018/C.R.56/18/UNI-1, dated 8th March, 2019 and University circular No. TAAS/(CT)/ICD/2018-19/1241, dated 26th March, 2019 and revised from time to time" The Government Resolution & Circular are available on the website mu.ac.in
Applicants who are already employed must send their application through proper channel. Applicants are required to account for breaks, if any in their academic career.
Application with full details should reach the **CHAIRMAN, K.L.E. Society's, Science and Commerce College, Plot No. 29, Sector No. 01, Kalamboli, Navi Mumbai - 410218** within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. **This is University approved advertisement.**

Mumbai
Date : 10/06/2026

Shri. Amit P. Kore
Chairman, Board of Management
KLE Society, Belagavi

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WANTED

Applications are invited for the following posts at our Krishna Vishwa Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) Constituent faculties:

- **Dean, Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Clinical Instructor**
- **Faculty of Medical Sciences, Nursing Sciences, Pharmacy and Science & Technology**

Note: The details regarding the advertisement along with Experience, Educational Qualifications etc. are available on the University website **https://kvv.edu.in/advt062026**

Date : 10.06.2026
Place : KARAD
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Name of the post	Pay	No. of post and place of posting	Age as on 01.01.2026
Head - Information Technology	Pay Band: Rs.1,47,300/- to Rs. 2,04,500/- with other allowances	01 (One) Corporate Office (Vidyut Bhavan, Kolkata)	Between 45 and 55 years

- Interested Candidates are requested to visit the Company's website: **www.wbsetcl.in** ***(under Career link)*** for details i.e. qualification, experience and other requirements.
- Duly filled-in application (complete in all respect) must be submitted in prescribed format addressed to the **Director (HR&A), WBSETCL, 8th Floor, A - Block, Vidyut Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700091.**
- Applications will be received from **10.06.2026** to **30.06.2026**. ICA-N148(3)/2026

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO.: REC/2026/02

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Applications are invited from experienced professionals from the **Food Manufacturing Industry** for the following positions:

	Qualification & Experience
HEAD OF PLANT OPERATIONS	**Qualification:** B.Tech/M.Tech Food Technology/MBA Operations **Experience :** 15+ Years
PLANT MANAGER	**Qualification:** B.Tech Food Technology/Mechanical/Production Engineering **Experience :** 15+ Years
HEAD OF FOOD SALES	**Qualification:** MBA Marketing/Business Management **Experience :** 15+ Years
PRODUCT MANAGER SWEETS	**Qualification:** Graduate/Post Graduate Food Technology **Experience :** 8-12 Years
MANAGER - OPERATIONS (BATTER DIVISION)	**Qualification:** Graduate/Post Graduate Food Technology **Experience :** 8-12 Years
PACKAGING MANAGER	**Qualification:** Graduate/Post Graduate from IIP/Packaging **Experience :** 3-8 Years
PROCUREMENT MANAGER	**Qualification:** Graduate/Post Graduate in Supply Chain Management/Finance /Business Administration **Experience :** 8-12 Years

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careers@satchmofoods.com www.satchmofoods.com

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted

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Engineer/Sr. Engineer- Civil/Finishing	Diploma/B.E in Civil	2-9 Years
Engineer/Sr. Engineer - QS & Billing	Diploma/B.E in Civil	2-9 Years
Foreman- Shuttering/ Finishing	ITI/Diploma in Civil	4-8 Years
Engineer/Sr. Engineer - MEP	Diploma/B.E in EEE	2-9 Years
Engineer/Sr. Engineer - QA/QC	Diploma/B.E in Civil	2-9 Years
Engineer/Sr. Engineer - Planning	Diploma/B.E in Civil	2-9 Years
Manager - Planning	Diploma/B.E in Civil	10-15 Years
Civil Draftsman	Diploma/B.E in Civil	2-5 Years
Manager - Civil/Finishing	Diploma/B.E in Civil	10-15 Years
Safety Engineers	Diploma in Safety	2-5 Years
Fit out Coordinator	Diploma/B.E in Civil	2-5 Years
Sales & Leasing Executives for Commercial & Residential Real Estate	Any Graduates or Post Gratuates	0-5 Years

Walk in: From 10th June to 25th June 2026 at SPR City, No. 1 Cooks Road, Perambur, Chennai - 600012.
Email: hr@sprindia.com | Call: 88703 22008/98410 47988

HIRING FOR KEY TECHNICAL POSITIONS
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GMDC Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDC) is one of India's leading mining and mineral processing & Power Generation organization. As a part of its operational strengthening and reliability improvement initiatives, applications are invited from experienced and result-oriented professionals for engagement at 2x125 MW Akrimota Thermal Power Station (ATPS) , Nanichher , Lakhpat , Kutch, Gujarat for the following positions for Fixed Term Period.

No	Position	Experience Required	No	Position	Experience Required
1	DGM / Sr. Manager (Stores & Purchase)	10-15 years	9	Asst. Engineer / Jr. Engineer (Store & Purchase)	2-5 years
2	DGM / Sr. Manager (Civil)	10-15 years	10	Asst. Engineer / Jr. Engineer (Environment)	2-5 years
3	DGM / Sr. Manager (Lab and RO Unit)	10-15 years	11	Asst. Engineer / Jr. Engineer (Operation)	2-5 years
4	DGM / Sr. Manager (Fire & Safety)	10-15 years	12	Asst. Engineer / Jr. Engineer (Boiler Maintenance Dept.)	2-5 years
5	DGM / Sr. Manager (Environment)	10-15 years	13	Asst. Engineer / Jr. Engineer (Turbine Maintenance Dept.)	2-5 years
6	Manager / Asst. Manager (Stores & Purchase)	5-10 years	14	Asst. Engineer / Jr. Engineer (Electrical Maintenance Dept.)	2-5 years
7	Manager / Asst. Manager (Civil)	5-10 years	15	Asst. Engineer / Jr. Engineer (Instruments Maintenance Dept.)	2-5 years
8	Manager / Asst. Manager (Fire & Safety)	5-10 years	16	Asst. Engineer / Jr. Engineer (Material Handling Plant & Weigh Bridge)	2-5 years

Candidates meeting eligibility Criteria are invited to visit website **www.gmdcltd.com,** under **"Current Opening"**. Last Date of application is **24th June 2026.**

General Manager (HR):
GMDC Ltd. 'Khanij Bhavan', 132 Feet Ring Road, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad – 380 052, Gujarat, India

No deadline or pressure to accept our offer: Air India

▶Continued from page 1

Radhika Mishra, the London-based daughter of former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani, has in a mail to Tata Group and AI chairman N Chandrasekaran said a document being circulated by the airline "requires families to permanently waive present and future claims before all facts are known.... We deserve more than compensation.... We deserve answers.... above all, we deserve closure."

In its response to Mishra, which was seen by **TOI**, AI said "there is absolutely no deadline or pressure on any family or individual to accept our offer within a set timeframe... Families are free to wait until the investigation report has been released, as some have chosen to do.... investigation is (being) independently conducted by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), and therefore AI is not aware of when the report will be released. In light of the numerous requests that we received, and conscious of our own obligations, we felt that it would not be fair to families who wish to proceed with final compensation if we were to put the process on hold indefinitely."

The Air India 787-8 Dreamliner took off from Ahmedabad for London with 242 passengers and crew and crashed into a medical college hostel before bursting into flames. Ex-Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani was among the killed (file)

Rupani was flying in AI 171 from Ahmedabad to meet his daughter when the Boeing 787 Dreamliner crashed seconds after take off, killing 241 of 242 people on board and 19 others in student hostels of the B J Medical College where it had fatally plunged.

"Para 1 of the receipt, discharge and indemnity (RDI) document extends far beyond Air India, seeking to discharge Boeing, General Electric Company, GE Aerospace, Safran S A, Honeywell International Inc, the Union of India including other govt agencies, Ahmedabad International Airport, insurers, and numerous third parties whose roles, if any, have not yet been established. The agreement remains binding even if future investigations uncover new evidence, findings, or circumstances that are unknown today. Families are required not only to release claims but also to indemnify the released parties against future claims....," Radhika Mishra's mail says.

MP CM orders scrapping of two-child rule for govt job

Ashutosh.Shukla
@timesofindia.com

Bhopal: In a major decision, Madhya Pradesh chief minister Mohan Yadav Tuesday ordered the withdrawal of a draft provision in the proposed civil services rules that prescribes a maximum limit of two children for eligibility for govt jobs. He also ordered the immediate removal of the draft from the official portal.

In 2001, the general administration department had introduced a provision disqualifying candidates with more than two living children from direct recruitment and departmental appointments in govt service. Under the provision, candidates having more than two living children on or after Jan 26, 2001, were not eligible for govt service. Further, under the MP Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1965, having more than two children was treated as misconduct for serving govt employees.

CID's search ended without confiscation of any material

▶Continued from page 1

CID officers told Chakraborty that Abhishek's reply to investigators had identified Kalighat office as venue of meeting where the assembly LoP was chosen. "Hence, we need to search this place as he is not cooperating with us. You cannot stop a search, which is an integral part of an investigation," an officer told him.

Chakraborty, a lawyer, said he was not obstructing investigation but sought two more days until occupants returned from New Delhi. "I do not know what communication took place... If you have already waited for a week, you can easily wait for two more days," he said.

Around 4.15pm, eight CID officers, including 2 women, entered the premises. Investigators questioned staff, examined records and sought details related to the May 6 meeting, an officer said. The search ended without confiscation of documents or materials.

TMC dares rebels to quit party & join BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Things are heating up in Delhi with TMC on Tuesday fielding Kalyan Banerjee and Kirti Azad to take on dissident MPs and questioning the claim made by rebel MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar of having the support of 20 MPs and having written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking recognition as a separate parliamentary bloc that would back NDA.

Demanding that the letter claiming support of 20 MPs should be placed in public domain, Banerjee challenged all dissident MPs to resign from TMC and join BJP. "Those who went to Union minister Bhupender Yadav's residence and held meetings with Bengal CM Suvendu Adhikari have effectively become BJP. Today, their leader is Narendra Modi," Banerjee and Azad said at a press meet in Delhi on Tuesday.

"If the rebel MPs claim they have the numbers required under the Tenth Schedule, then why have they not formally merged with the BJP? The truth is that BJP has not officially accepted them despite their efforts to align with it," they said.

Amid all the speculation and a day after the INDIA bloc meeting, TMC's Mamata Banerjee met Congress parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi at 10 Janpath in what was seen as Banerjee's attempt to further build on efforts to rally support as her party faces its worst crisis.

No details of Tuesday's meeting were shared by either party.

Jacqueline goes to SC for relief

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear actor Jacqueline Fernandez's petition challenging the May 30 order of a trial court framing PMLA charges against her in the case relating to alleged money laundering of Rs 200 crore by conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar. The court will hear the plea on Thursday.

Appearing for the actor, advocate Rameeza Hakim told the court there was an ex-facie conflict in the judicial proceedings arising from same set of accusations. TNN

Officials say Natarajan failed to furnish missing details

▶Continued from page 1

BJP fielded a third candidate without adequate votes and we knew hurdles would be created," Natarajan said. "First, they are stealing votes through SIR, now they are stealing seats. We will fight this battle through every democratic and constitutional forum available."

Unless Congress secures urgent relief from EC or Supreme Court, the contest now effectively stands reduced to three BJP candidates for three vacancies — setting the stage for an unopposed sweep in MP.

Officials said Natarajan was given an opportunity to furnish missing details but failed to do so, prompting rejection through a reasoned order. Congress disputed that interpretation. "The matter relates to BNS Section 223 concerning intentional disobedience of a lawful order by a public servant. It is not a criminal case in the conventional sense," Congress legal cell representative Ajay Gupta said. "There was no requirement to disclose it under prescribed norms."

Gupta said the party would challenge the rejection.

BJP legal cell member Sanket Gupta said. "Natarajan cannot claim ignorance because she herself responded to the notice issued by Hyderabad court."

SC allows duo 'to live peacefully as spouses'

▶Continued from page 1

The youth was tried under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and was convicted in 2019. While the man was undergoing the jail term, the girl got married, only for the union to end abruptly.

After their reconciliation and marriage, the couple started living together. She thereafter moved Madras high court praying for her further examination as she wanted to express the "untold truth" of the case. She pleaded that her husband's conviction be set aside as they had settled the matter amicably and were living together. HC, however, refused her plea. The couple then moved SC.

Apex court directed judicial magistrate of Harur in Tamil Nadu to record her statement regarding the status of their relationship and marriage and also directed the couple to appear before it. As the court interacted with them, the girl made an additional demand of Rs 10 lakh from her husband as security sum. The man paid the amount and SC, thereafter, quashed his conviction.

In its order, a bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Atul S Chandurkar said, "The appellant and the victim are left free to live their life peacefully in society as spouses."

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Last date of receipt of application: 5:00 pm on 07-July-2026

Note: Further details including corrigendum, if any, shall be published only on the Bureau's website.

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3	Senior Executive - Civil	2	1	
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6	Lead Consultant - Engagement	7	1	

• Interested candidates may visit the NICDC website for more details and apply online at **www.nicdc.in (Careers> Current Opening> Apply Online)** on or **before 24th June, 2026 by 17:00 HRS.** No other mode of application shall be accepted/entertained.
• Actual number of posts may vary depending upon the suitability of candidates.

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Online applications are invited from Indian Nationals for filling up the positions of **Assistant Professor Grade – II (Level – 10), Assistant Professor (Grade – I) (Level 12), Associate Professor (Level – 13A2), Professor (Level 14A)**. For detailed information, please visit institute website **www.nits.ac.in**.
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Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., the Lifeline of Delhi, invite applications for the following post:-

S. No.	Designation	No. of Post(s)	Mode of Induction	Pay Scale / Remuneration	Last Date of Receipt of Application
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	Assistant Manager/ Inspection (Sricity)			₹ 82,700/-	

The advertisement is only indicative. The detailed vacancy notification and particulars regarding the eligibility criterion, qualification, experience, age limit, mode of selection, etc., are available in the Career Section of the DMRC website: **www.delhimetrorail.com** under ADVT No. DMRC/PERS/22/HR/2026 (231).

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Metro Bhawan, Fire Brigade Lane,
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Advertisement No.: DMRC/991/2026

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Last Date of submission of application by the applicant is by 1700 hours on **24.06.2026**
For complete Advertisement and Application Form Please login to any of the following websites
www.aiahl.in, www.aiasl.in, www.allianceair.in www.aiesl.in, and www.centaurhotels.com

MUMBAI PORT AUTHORITY

Advertisement No. DR-19 **Dated: 5.6.2026**

Applications are invited for **One Class I post of Dy. Director** to be filled by Direct Recruitment in Mumbai Port Authority.
All details are available on MbPA website: **www.mumbaiport.gov.in (People & Career / Jobs / Advertisement Menu).** Candidates applying for the above post are required to apply online through the link provided on the aforesaid MbPA website.
Closing date for submission of online application and fee payment is **06.07.2026.**
Manager (HR)

GMDC
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International Center of Excellence in Mining Safety & Automation (iCEM) at Dev Dholera is the Innovation and Skill Development arm of Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (GMDC), a leading State PSU and India's largest merchant seller of lignite. This pioneering initiative is focused on advanced mining practices through global collaborations, technology adoptions, PoC trials and future-ready skill development.
As a fast-growing organization, iCEM invites applications from dynamic and result-oriented professionals for following positions to strengthen its core team:-

Position	Qualifications	Year of Experience
Sr. Executive / AM Training & Development	Master's / Bachelor's degree in management (HR preferred), Organizational Development, Psychology, or related discipline.	05-07 Years
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Sr. Executive / AM New Tech Identification	Master's / Bachelor's degree (in engineering or other technical discipline is preferred)	03-05 Years
Sr. Executive / AM New Tech Adoption	Master's / Bachelor's degree (in engineering or other technical discipline is preferred)	03-05 Years
Sr. Executive / AM Supervisor (Pilot scale mineral processing plant)	Bachelor's degree / diploma in engineering (in Chemical, Mineral Processing, Metallurgy, Material Science preferred)	03-05 Years
Sr. Executive / AM Estate Management	Master's / Bachelor's degree (in facility / Infrastructure Management preferred)	05-08 Years
Sr. Executive / AM Electrical Engineering	Master's / bachelor's degree in electrical engineering	05-07 Years

These are contractual positions initially for a period of 3 years extendable based on performance. Positions are based at Dev Dholera Campus, Ahmedabad.
Candidates are required to submit their duly filled Application Form (available on the website, https://icem.in/careers/) along with an updated CV either by post to the **Director – HR / Admin, iCEM,** 5th Floor, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., Khanij Bhavan, 132 Ft. Ring Road, Near Gujarat University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad – 380052, or by email at **contact@icem.in.**
The Last day to apply for all the position is **01/07/2026 at 06:00 PM.**
Salary commensurate with qualifications, experience and industry standards.
For further details about the positions, please visit our website: **https://icem.in/careers/.**
Chief Executive Officer, iCEM
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Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Gujarat Enterprise)
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Advertisement No. HR-CON./05/2026 **Dated 5.6.2026**

Applications are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for the following engagements purely **on contract basis** in Mumbai Port Authority:

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(iv)	Chief Manager (Environment)	1
(v)	Manager (Environment)	1
(vi)	Manager (ICT)	2
(vii)	Chief Manager (Corporate Legal)	1
(viii)	Manager (Corporate Legal)	1

For details regarding consolidated remuneration, educational qualifications, age, experience and last date of receiving applications etc. visit our website **www.mumbaiport.gov.in (People & Career/ Jobs/ Advertisements)** and submit applications in the prescribed format by downloading the same from our website.
Manager (HR)

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2	GMEP-02	General Manager - Exploration & Production
3	OFSEP-03	Officer (Safety) for Exploration and Production Sites
4	OFFEP-04	Officer (Fire) for Exploration and Production Sites

Relevant information of the position will be available on the Company's website. Interested and eligible candidates can apply through the link: **https://www.gujarat-energy.com/careers/current-openings/** with relevant details. **Last date of application is 20-06-2026.**

GUJARAT ENERGY LIMITED
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Corporate Office: No. 4 & 5, Ground Floor, IT Tower-2, Infocity, Gandhinagar 382009 Gujarat, India
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Chief Administrative Officer	**Institutional Services**	1	12

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The interested candidates may apply online at the MDI web portal **www.mdi.ac.in** under the link **"Jobs@MDI"**. The last date for receiving applications is **25th June, 2026.**
For further details regarding eligibility criteria, job description and general instructions, please visit the Institute website **www.mdi.ac.in.**
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For more details, visit **career section of www.ediindia.org** and apply online by 30 June, 2026

Advertisement No. 66/2026
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Director (Commercial)
in
MOIL Limited
Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15.00 hours on
29th June, 2026
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 17.00 hours on
08th July, 2026
For details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

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(Positions on Regular Payroll)

Vadodara Gas Limited (VGL) invites online applications for eligible candidates for the following positions:

S/N	Department	Position(s)	Vacancies
1.	CNG	**Manager** (E3)	1
		Dy. Manager (E2)	1
2.	Contracts & Procurement	**Dy. Manager** (E2)	1
3.	Human Resources	**Sr. Manager** (E4)	1
4.	Finance	**Dy. Manager** (E2)	1
5.	Marketing	**Manager** (E3)	1
		Asst. Manager (E1)	1
6.	Billing & Recovery	**Manager** (E3)	1
		Asst. Manager (E1)	1
7.	PNG - Steel, Projects & O&M	**Manager** (E3)	1
		Asst. Manager (E1)	1
8.	PNG - Projects & O&M	**Sr. Manager** (E4)	1
		Asst. Manager (E1)	2
		Engineer (E0)	2

Age Limit: 21-45 Years • Application Period: 08.06.2026 to 07.07.2026
For detailed eligibility criteria, qualifications, experience requirements & online application, visit: **www.vgl.co.in/careers**

'Rafale deal will toe Make-in-India line'

Ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit to France next week for the G7 summit, French ambassador **Thierry Mathou** *tells* **TOI**'s **Sachin Parashar** *in an exclusive interview that India's involvement with the group of the world's most advanced and industrialised nations has become indispensable. Mathou said India's participation in a 'defensive' mission to secure Strait of Hormuz once the conflict is over would send a powerful signal. Excerpts:*

France is hosting the summit amid the protracted West Asia conflict. How do you think the summit will help address the conflict's economic consequences like the global energy crisis and its impact on Global South, particularly partners like India?

■ The Évian summit comes at a pivotal moment, as consequences of the conflict weigh heavily on the global economy. In a sense it brings the G7 back to the basics, as it was created in 1975 on France's initiative to deal with the crisis following the first oil shock. True to this spirit, the French G7 Presidency aims to deliver tangible solutions. We have already contributed to G7 efforts to release strategic supplies in a coordinated manner to reduce impacts on global oil prices, including by coordinating with Gulf economies.

President Macron is seeking an early US-Iran ceasefire agreement and immediate reopening of Strait of Hormuz. He has remained in touch with PM Modi on the issue. Do you see India also as playing a role in the "defensive" coalition that France has proposed for unimpeded passage through the strait?

■ We cannot accept the strait to be managed in a manner inconsistent with UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and navigation rules. This precedent would have disastrous consequences in other parts of the world, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. France is fully committed to supporting the resumption of safe and unimpeded navigation through Strait of Hormuz. Since the Paris Summit on Freedom of Navigation of April 17, which India attended, a broad international consensus has emerged in favour of freedom of navigation and the launch of a strictly defensive mission, distinct from other operations, once security conditions so allow. India's participation would be a powerful signal.

TOI INTERVIEW

France has been actively backing India's involvement with G7. What role do you see India playing in addressing issues related to global economic imbalances and ensuring a more inclusive and resilient international order?

■ As global imbalances worsen, the involvement of India and other partner countries within the G7 has become indispensable. For the first time, India and other partner countries have been closely associated upstream of the summit, participating in Sherpa meetings and ministerial sessions. To this end, we are seeking to build collective momentum so that we can, together with US and China, hold a serious discussion on the root causes of these imbalances. Our second priority concerns the overhaul of international partnerships, for which working closely with India is crucial. We must move away from the official aid approach towards genuine co-investment. Given India's economic and demographic weight, its contribution to the discussion is of paramount importance.

G7 foreign ministers' meeting this year stressed the need for global governance reform. Can we expect some concrete proposals at the summit to ensure institutions like UNSC are more attuned to current geopolitical realities?

■ The precise agenda of the summit is still being finalised as I speak. France's position on this subject is well known. Reforming the Security Council, particularly by including India, Brazil, Germany, Japan and two African States as permanent members, is key to strengthening its representativeness and legitimacy. We are convinced that such a reform is possible. It is, therefore, imperative to begin negotiations based on a draft text, without waiting for prior consensus, which has proved unattainable to date.

With the G7 also focused on critical minerals, do you see the summit working to develop alternatives against China's dominance?

■ There is a clear momentum to reduce the exposure of our value chains, minimise excessive dependencies, and combat non-market practices that distort fair competition. Concrete deliberations have already been undertaken under the French G7 presidency to converge on a framework to diversify our supply sources. We hope that these efforts will conclude successfully and be endorsed by as many states as possible. France is also organising a high-level event on critical mineral cooperation a few days ahead of the summit.

Given the level of trust between India and France, defence cooperation remains a central pillar of the relationship. India recently issued a Letter of Request for 114 Rafale aircraft under the MRFA programme. With India expecting 94 of these to be built here, what percentage of technology transfer will France agree to, particularly regarding Safran M88 engine technology?

■ As these discussions are ongoing, you will understand that I cannot go into any details. Let me just say that, as with many other defence programmes France has developed with India, we intend this new acquisition to be in line with 'Make-in-India' requirements.

Collective thinking, resolve & dream: 12 years of Modi govt

By Nitin Nabin

Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, central govt has completed 12 years dedicated to trust, development and public welfare. This glorious era of 'Sankalp se Siddhi' has witnessed unprecedented growth in India's development, security, economic empowerment and global prestige.

Congress left the country with a legacy of uncertainty, corruption and weak leadership, while PM Modi has given Bharat a new identity built on self-confidence, good governance and development.

Today, the world sees Bharat not merely as a regional power but as one of the greatest powers of the 21st century. While Congress viewed politics merely as a tool to protect dynastic legacy for years, PM Modi redefined it as a mission of 'Nation above family' and 'Service above power'.

In 2014, he first gave the nation 'collective thinking', then on the strength of public trust, converted that thinking into 'collective resolve', and today that very resolve has taken the form of a vast 'collective dream' in the shape of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

This great transformation began with an unprecedented revolution in infrastructure. Before 2014, the country was struggling with a shortage of basic facilities.

The result of this change on the ground is that more than 12 crore toilets have been built, 100% electrification has been achieved, expressway network has grown seven times, and airports have risen from 74 to 165.

This era stands as a testament to our liberation from a colonial mindset and marks the beginning of true decolonisation. The renaming of historic landmarks to Lok Kalyan Marg, Kartavya Path and Seva Teerth are living proof of this cultural resurgence.

Today's youth is not becoming a 'job seeker' but a 'job giver'. With more than two lakh startups and over 125 unicorns, India is moving from 'manpower' towards 'manufacturing power'.

Similarly, the country is witnessing a shift from 'women development' to 'women-led development', where more than three crore 'Lakhpati Didis' and a four-fold increase in women officers in security forces reflect self-reliance of 'Nari Shakti'.

In the field of welfare of poor, 25 crore people have been brought above poverty line. Four crore permanent houses, Ayushman shield for over 44 crore citizens, and collateral-free loans worth Rs 40 lakh crore under PM Mudra Yojana formed its foundation. Driven by the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile trinity and UPI, India now clocks an incredible Rs 314 lakh crore in annual digital transactions, commanding 49% share of global digital payments.

Strategic priority given to border development under PM Modi marks a profound shift in national policy. What were once overlooked as India's 'last villages' have now taken centerstage as India's 'first villages'.

Finally, after a wait of 500 years, construction of the grand Ram temple and restoration of Kashi Vishwanath Dham and Mahakal Mahalok are reawakening of that civilisational consciousness of our cultural nationalism.

Today, India is not only growing continuously stronger internally but has also rapidly emerged as a superpower on the global stage. When PM Modi receives the highest civilian honour from 32 countries, it is an honour to that eternal Indian thought and to the endeavour of 140 crore countrymen.

(The writer is national president of BJP)

NDA to celebrate PM Modi's new record

Kumar.Rakesh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: As NDA govt turns 12 and PM Narendra Modi overtakes Jawaharlal Nehru's feat of longest unbroken tenure as elected head of govt, leading members of the alliance will gather on Wednesday to mark the twin feats, an occasion turning more celebratory for them as rival INDIA bloc weakens amid implosion in TMC.

Nearly 75 representatives of about 35 parties are expected to meet, with achievements of govt coupled with Modi's own milestone likely to dominate proceedings and resolution, informed sources said. CMs of all the 22 NDA-governed states and UTs are expected to attend the meeting where the PM will also be present. Conclave will come days after 23 opposition met under aegis of INDIA bloc, and the difference in mood and context of the twin gatherings of the country's principal poles could not have been starker.

Several heads of govt on Tuesday congratulated Modi, with Sri Lankan president Anura Kumara Dissanayake saying the milestone is a testament to the "trust and confidence that people of the world's largest democracy have repeatedly placed in his leadership". Papua New Guinea's PM James Marape and Trinidad and Tobago's PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar lauded Modi as "a role model and an example of leadership". Despite global headwinds, India has remained the largest growing major economy, BJP president Nitin Nabin said, days after official data showed that it grew at an impressive 7.7% in the last fiscal.

Amid clear signs of a split in TMC and rebel LS MPs veering to supporting govt, NDA is now getting ready to undo the debacle a united opposition inflicted on it in Parliament's last session by defeating its bid to amend the women's reservation law, as its braintrust believes that numbers will sooner or later align favourably for the required two-third majority.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU

PM prioritised publicity over performance: Cong report card

New Delhi: Congress on Tuesday released a "12-year accountability report" on Modi govt's "major failures", and accused the PM of prioritising "publicity over performance".

AICC's Rajeev Gowda and Amitabh Dubey recalled the PM's repeated assertions that India was on course to become the world's third-largest economy, and noted it has since slipped from fourth to sixth place in global economic rankings.

Gowda, an economist, said depreciation of rupee reflects shortcomings in economic management, which has adversely affected investor confidence. He said foreign investors are withdrawing funds from Indian markets and substantial capital outflows have been recorded recently. Dubey said rising prices of essential commodities have increased financial burden on households. TNN

India may've deployed 12 N-warheads: SIPRI

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A reputed global peace think tank has made the big claim that India may have shifted its nuclear posture to ready-to-strike mode by deploying 12 warheads on delivery vehicles, including possibly one nuclear submarine.

This marks a big change because India had so far kept warheads and delivery systems separately.

When a nuclear warhead is 'deployed', it means the nuclear warhead is actively mounted on missiles or loaded onto bombers and, having been mated, is ready for immediate use. This assessment is part of the latest report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The report also mentioned that the number of India's nuclear warheads had increased to 190 as of Jan 2026, compared to the earlier 180. However, there is no change in India's "no first use" policy when it comes to a nuclear attack.

The report said, "It has long been assumed that India stores its nuclear warheads separate from its deployed launchers during peacetime. However, the country's recent moves towards placing missiles in canisters and conducting sea-based deterrence patrols suggest that India could be shifting in the direction of mating some of its warheads with their launchers in peacetime.

"These (nuclear) weapons were assigned to a maturing nuclear triad of aircraft, land-based missiles and SSBNs (a specialised class of nuclear-powered submarines designed to carry and launch nuclear-armed ballistic missiles). More warheads are thought to be in production for additional missiles," it said.

Based on this assessment, SIPRI estimated that, as of Jan 2026, India may have started to deploy a small number of nuclear warheads on a single SSBN conducting occasional deterrence patrols. Indian Navy currently operates three SSBNs: INS Arihant, INS Arighaat and INS Aridhaman.

e-AUCTION NOTICE FOR LEASING OF SLRs

e-Auction Notice No. LEASE-KGP-26-06 Date : 09.06.2026

For and on behalf of the President, Union of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-Auction for leasing of SLRs for a period of 03 (three) years for transportation of parcels in the trains which are notified in the **https://www.ireps.gov.in/website**.

Category	Catalogue No.	Date of e-Auction	Auction Start Time	Auction Closing time
Parcel	LEASE-KGP-26-06	22.06.2026	11:00 hrs.	15:20 hrs.

Interested parties and contractors to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the trains and related information about the e-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications, if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.

(PR-297) **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur**

South Eastern Railway
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Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-mail: helpdesk@bmrc.co.in, Website: www.bmrc.co.in
No. BMRCL/HR/0003/PRJ/2026 Dated: 09.06.2026

NOTIFICATION FOR CONTRACT / DEPUTATION APPOINMENT

BMRCL invites applications from qualified and experienced personnel for appointment to the following position on Contract / Deputation basis.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Posts
1	Company Secretary	01
	Total	01

Last date for receipt of online application **is 30.06.2026** and for receipt of signed application with supporting documents **is 04.07.2026** For details regarding eligibility, salary, application process and other details, please visit BMRCL website: **www.bmrc.co.in/Career Section.**

Sd/-
General Manager (HR)

CORRIGENDUM

Public Notice appeared on 09.06.2026 in Times of India (Page No.9) & Vijaya Karnataka (Page no.7) Bangalore Edition also cover Kolar, Kindly read the Complaint Dtd: as 09.06.2026 & No. as 2244910/2026 and the Property Document No. as HSK-1-10831/2018-19 rest all the content remain same.
S T Prashantha Kumar, Advocate & Senior Partner
Mali Pavan Gowda, Advocate & G-head
Fox Mandal & Associates, FM House,
6/12, Primrose Road, Bangalore – 560 025,
Ph: 80 30554100. Dtd: 10.06.2026

32001/360/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN,
AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:- MAYURBHANJ
Mail Id. cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. 03/ 26-27 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1	Name of Work	Bank protection work
2	Total No of Projects	4 Nos
3	Estimated Cost	Varies from Rs.678.05 Lakh to Rs. 786.99 Lakh
3	EMD	Details can be seen in the DTCN of bid documents of the respected works
4	Period of Completion	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
5	Class of Contractor	"A" Class and "Special" Class
6	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	17.06.2026 at 10.00 AM
7	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	01.07.2026 up to 5.00 PM.
8	Date of opening of bid	02.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.
9	Name & Address of the O.I. T	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "**https://tendersodisha.gov.in**".

Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin,
Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj
OIPR-32001/32429/1/26-27/0001

HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION EMPLOYEES' CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED.,
(Regd. No. X 174 dated 01.01.1987)
3rd FLOOR, "THALAMUTHU-NATARAJAN" BUILDING NO.1, GANDHI IRWIN ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU-600008.,

ELECTION GENERAL BODY MEETING NOTICE

Present: Mrs. Rashmi Siddharth Zagade, I.A.S.,
District Collector / Returning Officer

By virtue of the power vested with me as Returning Officer upon appointment by the Cooperative Election Authority vide their Order Election No.162/2025-26 dated 12.02.2026, it is hereby notified that there will be an Election General Body Meeting of the Society to Elect 11 (Eleven) Directors for the term 2026–2031 which will be held on 09th August 2026 at Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Employees' Co-operative Society Limited, 3rd Floor,Thalamuthu-Natarajan" Building No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600008, as per schedule. All the members are requested to attend the General Body meeting and they are eligible to contest and vote in the Election as per conditions laid down in MSCS Act 2023 and Society Bye-laws.

ELECTION PROGRAMME

Attachment of the Order No. CEA-12011/467/2026 dated 12.02.2026 & 08.06.2026 for conduct of Election.

(A)

Name of Multi State Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society	The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Employees' Co-operative Society Limited, 3rd Floor, "Thalamuthu-Natarajan" Building No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai, Tamil Nadu-600008.
Registered No.	Regd No. X 174 dated 01.01.1987
Returning Officer	District Collector, Chennai District.
Post for which Election being held	Board Members -11 (General – 08, SC/ST- 1 & Women-2) Office Bearers -2 (Chairman -1 & Vice-Chairman 1)
Area of Operation	6 (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala)
Regular Member	1158

POLLING BOOTHS

TAMIL NADU
HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD, 3RD FLOOR, "THALAMUTHU-NATARAJAN" BUILDING, EGMORE, CHENNAI -600 008

TELANGANA
HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD, 130/1, SEBASTIAN STREET, S.D. ROAD, SECUNDERABAD – 500 003

KERALA
HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD, TATA ROAD, POST BOX NO. 1601, TATAPURAM, ERNAKULAM, COCHIN – 682 018

KARNATAKA
HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD, HP GREEN R&D CENTER KIADB INDUSTRIAL AREA, TARABAHALLI DEVANGUNDHI, HOSKOTE, BANGALORE – 560 067

GOA
HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD, GOA LPG PLANT PLOT NO. 150, KUNDAIM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PONDA, NORTH GOA – 403 115

ANDHRA PRADESH
HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD, VISAKHA RETAIL REGION OFFICE, PETRO NILAYAM, OPP: A.U. GATE CHINA WALTAIR, VISAKHAPATNAM – 530 003

(B) ELECTION PROGRAMME FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

S.No.	Particulars	Date	Time
1	Publication of Provisional List of members / delegates, Eligible to Vote	29th June, 2026 (Monday)	By Evening
2	Time Window for Raising Objection to the Provisional List	30th June to 3rd July,2026 (Tuesday to Friday)	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
3	Scrutiny of Objection received to the Provisional List (if any)	6th to 10th July,2026 (Monday to Friday)	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
4	Publication of Final List of Members / delegates eligible to Vote	11th July,2026 (Saturday)	11:00 AM
5	Issue and Filing of Nomination Form	20th to 23rd July,2026 (Monday to Thursday)	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
6	Publication of List of Nominations Received	23rd July, 2026 (Thursday)	By 5.00 PM
7	Scrutiny of received Nomination Forms	24th July, 2026 (Friday)	11:00 AM onwards
8	Publication of List of Valid Nominations	24th July, 2026 (Friday)	By 5:00 PM
9	Withdrawal of Nominations	25th July, 2026 (Saturday)	11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
10	Publication of Final List of Contesting Candidates	25th July, 2026 (Saturday)	By Evening
11	Date of Polling, if Necessary	10th August,2026 (Monday)	8:00 AM to 4:00 PM and all those who have entered polling station at 04 PM or before should be allowed to cast Vote
12	Counting of Votes	12th August, 2026 (Wednesday)	08.00 AM Onwards
13	Submission of Form 19M with recommendation for seeking approval of CEA before declaration of result of BOD	12th August, 2026 (Wednesday)	
14	Declaration of Result of Board of Directors	After approval of Cooperative Election Authority, New Delhi on Format 19M	

(C) ELECTION PROGRAMME OF OFFICE BEARER (After declaration of Result of Board Members' Election)

1	Announcement of Election Schedule:	19th August,2026 (Wednesday)	
	I. Time Window for Filling Nomination	9.30 AM to 11.30 AM	
	II. Scrutiny of Nomination Papers	12.30 PM to 02.00 PM	
	III. Time and Date for Withdrawal	02.00 PM to 04.00 PM	
	IV. Display of List of the contesting candidate and schedule of election	By Evening	
2	Meeting of Newly Constituted Board & Publication of List for valid Nominations, Polling (if required)	20th August, 2026 (Thursday)	11.00 AM Onwards
3	Declaration of Result of Election of Office Bearers	After approval of Cooperative Election Authority, New Delhi on Format 19N	

This Notice issued with the approval of Co-operative Election Authority.
Date: 26/05/2026

Sd/-
District Collector/Returning Officer
Chennai District

MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Process and Product Development Centre
Extension Centre - Coimbatore Organizee

Online Training Program On

ETHICAL HACKING

(Become a Ethical Hacker and improve network security skills)

Course Content: Network Fundamentals, IP addressing & Subnet Mask, Network Access, IP Services, Network Security, VPN & types, Introduction to Ethical Hacking, Footprinting, Port Security, Scanning Networks, Vulnerability Analysis, Malware Threats, Enumeration, Social Engineering, IDP & Firewall, SQL injection, Wireless Networks, Cloud Computing, Cryptography.

For Registration

Date: 13th - 28th June 2026 | **Time:** 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
Fees: 4,700/- (Inclusive of GST) | **Duration:** (6 Days) (only Sat & Sun)

Contact: 9600776611, 8667359360, 7358887633
Visit us at:www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
E- Certificate will be Awarded
Disclaimer: We aware of fraudulent activities. We never ask to make payment on any personal account

Call for Applications for Admission to the Ph. D. Programme for the academic year 2026-27

Advt. No. CEBS/PhD/02/2026
01.06.2026

UM-DAE Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences (UM-DAE CEBS), Mumbai invites applications for admissions to the Ph.D. Programme in Basic Sciences. For application form and other details, visit:
https://www.cbs.ac.in/Academics/ph-d-programme

LAST DATE for submission of application: **06.07.2026**

BENGALURU-MYSURU INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com
No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/112/2025-26/368 Date: 09.06.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

R.Vanitha D/o Sri G.Rajappa, R.Ashwini D/o Sri G.Rajappa and R.Vinutha D/o Sri G.Rajappa, have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Industrial"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No:10/9 extent of 00 Acre-08Guntas, Sy.No:10/10 extent of 00 Acre-07Guntas and Sy.No:10/11 extent of 00 Acre-07Guntas totally measuring 00 Acre-22 Guntas of Doddathoguru Village, Beguru Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for Industrial zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. By developing the layout in the above said land, General Public will get the sites for reasonable price.
2. During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
3. Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said lands.
4. By planned layout, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/1074/2026-27

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
बेंगलूरु क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय

सार्वजनिक सूचना

बैंककारी विनियमन अधिनियम, 1949 की धारा 56 के साथ पठित धारा 35 ए के अंतर्गत निदेश – दि अमानाथ को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक लिमिटेड, बैंगलोर – अवधि बढ़ाना

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने बैंककारी विनियमन अधिनियम, 1949 की धारा 56 के साथ पठित धारा 35 ए के अंतर्गत दिनांक 12 जून 2024 के निदेश सं. CO.DOS.SED.No.S1931/12-23-001/2024-2025 द्वारा दि अमानाथ को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक लिमिटेड, बैंगलोर को 12 दिसंबर 2024 को कारोबार की समाप्ति तक छह माह की अवधि के लिए निदेश जारी किए थे, जिसे पिछली बार दिनांक 02 मार्च 2026 के निदेश सं. DOR.MON/D-61/12.23.001/2025-26 द्वारा बढ़ाया गया था। भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक इस बात से संतुष्ट है कि जनहित में उक्त निदेश की परिचालन अवधि को 12 जून 2026 को कारोबार की समाप्ति से आगे बढ़ाया जाना आवश्यक है।

2. तदनुसार, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, बैंककारी विनियमन अधिनियम, 1949 की धारा 56 के साथ पठित धारा 35ए की उप-धारा (1) के अंतर्गत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, एतद्द्वारा उक्त निदेश की वैधता अवधि को अगले तीन महीने की अवधि के लिए, 12 जून 2026 को कारोबार की समाप्ति से 12 सितम्बर 2026 को कारोबार की समाप्ति तक बढ़ाता है, जो कि समीक्षाधीन होगा।

3. संदर्भाधीन निदेश के अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।

बेंगलूरु **हस्ता./-**
दिनांक: 10 जून 2026 **क्षेत्रीय निदेशक**

CONTRAPUNTO

Football is inherently dangerous, and that will never change

– CHRIS BORLAND

Football Is US?

The beautiful game is getting cold vibes in America, partly thanks to Trump. But the magic may yet happen

World Cup is almost here, but in one of its host nations, the party feels oddly unloved. Across much of the footballing world, the familiar fever has already taken hold. In Buenos Aires, parks and cafés are humming with speculation about Argentina's chances of defending their crown, with fans swapping Panini stickers, and tracing possible routes to glory. In Cape Verde, one of the smallest nations ever to reach the tournament, the mood is even more electric. The 10-island archipelago off West Africa has been celebrating its surprise qualification like a national awakening, and daring to dream of more.

But in US, the atmosphere is strikingly different. That is partly cultural. Football, or soccer in American usage, has never quite occupied the country's sporting bloodstream in the way baseball, basketball, or American football do. Major League Soccer has certainly grown, helped by ageing global icons such as Messi choosing America as a late-career stage. Youth soccer, suburban soccer moms, and packed summer friendlies all exist. Yet, for the average American sports fan, World Cup still does not carry the ancestral pull it commands in Europe, Latin America, Africa, or parts of Asia.

Politics has made that distance feel wider. Trump's America is not the America of USA '94, when the tournament arrived as a sunny advertisement for post-Cold War confidence. This World Cup comes wrapped in suspicion, border anxiety, and geopolitical tension. A host nation remains in active conflict with Iran, a participating country. Citizens of Haiti, Iran, Senegal, and Ivory Coast face travel barriers that could prevent them from watching their teams in person. Add the Trump administration's hardline immigration posture, uncertainty over how foreign visitors will be treated, and ticket prices that seem designed for oligarchs rather than ordinary fans, and this World Cup begins to look less like a welcome mat than a velvet rope.

And yet football has a habit of escaping cages built around it. Once the ball rolls, the tournament may find its soul, not in official slogans or VIP boxes, but in America's immigrant neighbourhoods. In St Louis, Missouri, home to a large Bosnian community, excitement is already building around Bosnia and Herzegovina's appearance. For families who fled war in 1990s, this is not merely sport. It is memory, pride and belonging in motion. If America struggles to embrace the world's biggest sporting event, its immigrants may still teach it how.

Swiss Watch

If Switzerland becomes first nation to cap population, the real casualty will be globalisation

Switzerland will vote in an interesting referendum this Sunday. The question before voters is: should its population be capped at 10mn till 2050? It's at 9mn now, and natural growth – total births minus total deaths – is a paltry 6,000 per year. There's no chance of touching 10mn this way. But Switzerland is also an immigrant magnet. About 2mn immigrants have made it their home in just the past 25 years. Overall, they make up 27% of population. And this is the real trigger for the referendum. It's a call from the political right, to preserve "Swissness", and ease pressure on infra and housing.

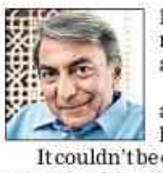
Criticism of the referendum is along predictable lines. If it passes – opinion polls show it might – reduced immigration will hurt Swiss growth, especially when the native population is ageing fast. Basically, a reminder of economic reality. But Switzerland has been here before. In the 1960s, when native population and GDP were growing fast, trade unions – the political left – were crying '*inforestieramento*' and '*uberfremdung*' against excessive immigration. Their demands for a 500,000 cap on the number of immigrants had a role in immigration quotas for workers.

To outsiders, Swiss fears of pressure on housing and infra can seem exaggerated. The country has 9 rooms for 5 people, on average. Nobody hangs out of their trains. But quality of life is subjective. A lone passenger in an auto can seem wasteful to someone squeezed in with 5-6 others in a shared auto. So, how much space the Swiss want for themselves, and how 'Swiss' they want to remain, is their business. For us, the referendum is interesting mainly as a barometer of globalisation. With tariffs, Trump's already shaken the global village. Sunday might bring another wakeup call, on an alphorn.

Lost and found

Each year it gets lost in India, causing much hullabaloo till it's located

Jug Suraiya



It had gone and got itself lost again. Or not lost, but maybe just misplaced. This happens year after year, so it shouldn't come as a surprise, but it does.

There's much confabulation and conjecture in mainstream and social media as to what the dickens could possibly have happened to the darn thing. Where could it have gone?

It couldn't be easy, getting itself lost or misplaced, the way it keeps doing. It's not something small that could go and fall into some nook or cranny, under the sofa cushions in the sitting room. Or behind the fridge in the kitchen. Or lurking inside the potted plants in the balcony.

It's supposed to be pretty sizeable. Though how sizeable or unsizeable it is on any given occasion is a matter for great and lengthy disputation among the many experts whose job it is to know everything there is to know about the problematic thing in question.

secondopinion

And the number of experts seems to be growing with each passing year. It's a noteworthy growth industry, of specialised experts in this particular area of expertise, and contributes significantly to the much-needed generation of employment in the country.

The proliferation of experts is aided by the very essence of what it means to be an expert, in any field, in that no two or more experts can hold the same view or agree with one another, because if they did, instead of two, or more, experts you'd only need the one expert, who'd presumably be selected by the drawing of lots or some similar process founded on random chance, and the other, or others, would be pink-slipped, leading to a marked spike in the unemployment rate.

This perpetually errant subject of overwrought discourse and debate is vital to the nation's finances, by creating a superabundance of experts, and providing other economic stimuli.

So, it's a good thing that after all the many alarms and excursions it regularly causes, it always manages to find itself and turn up, as it has done this time around, sooner or later.

Or, to put it more aptly, monsooner or later.

Western Rightwing's George Floyd?

The murder of a white Brit by a British Sikh is powering a narrative, across the West, of non-whites lording it over whites. Yes, Brit cops messed up initially. But now, the idea of immigration is in crosshairs

Rashmee Roshan Lall

Columnist based in London

In the days after the 9/11 attacks, a T-shirt with a reassuring message became increasingly visible on the London Underground. "Don't freak, I'm a Sikh." It was a reference to the hostility directed at turban-wearing men in US, because some Americans mistakenly believed their facial hair and headgear revealed them as members of Osama bin Laden's al Qaida and Taliban.

The T-shirt with its jaunty slogan seemed a fitting riposte by Sikhs. Scattered around the West and elsewhere, the roughly 1.5mn strong diasporic group felt themselves to be well-regarded. They were seen as an exuberant, self-confident, well-integrated community, often throwing up frontline politicians in their adopted home countries. Add to that the conspicuous hosting of langars and ceaseless habit of sewa, and Sikhs were bathed in the glow of being a model minority.

That was then. In 2026, the community is in the crosshairs of an international far-right movement, led by Trump's administration and Elon Musk, to bend public policy towards an iniquitous new standard, "white lives matter". The trigger is the actions of a turban-wearing Gen Z British Sikh, Vickrum Digwa, in the English port city of Southampton. Digwa carried a small kirpan, but used a longer knife to fatally stab Henry Nowak, a teenage student of British Polish ethnicity, in the chill gloom of a Dec night. He falsely told police the dying victim had hurled racist abuse at him.

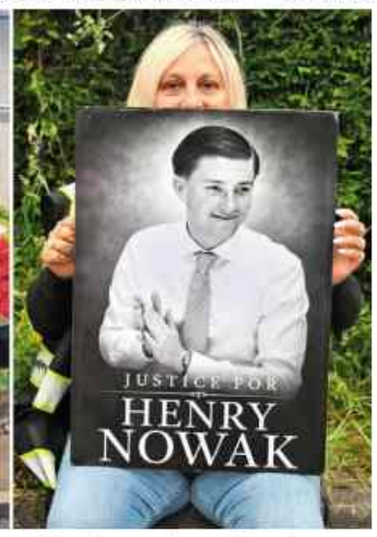
Police handcuffed Nowak, not realising that life was ebbing from him. They also dismissed his "I can't breathe" plea, which was eerily reminiscent of George Floyd's last words as a white police officer fatally knelt on the African-American's neck in Minneapolis in 2020. Floyd's murder catalysed a global movement for racial justice. Can Trump and the far-right claim Nowak as a white George Floyd?

For all that Digwa has been sentenced to 21 years in prison, the case isn't really over. It's still being tried in the broader court of public opinion in multiple countries, having lit an explosive debate. It's supposed to be about race relations but is, in actual fact, about brutal murder and a set of despicable lies.

Unfortunately, there is little chance of seeing it as such. That the police initially paid respectful heed to the murderer's fabricated account of a racial attack, and failed to notice Nowak's injuries, has provoked outrage from US's state department, Trump's vice-president JD Vance, and defence secretary Pete Hegseth, as well as Musk and the British, European and Japanese far-right.

A Polish far-right member of European parliament has insisted Digwa, who's a UK national, is "an Indian". She added that the story symbolised "Britain's descent into the depths of the earth…brainwashed by this suicidal, leftist ideology." French far-right politician

Image by AI, from a photograph



Éric Zemmour, who ran for president in 2022, has said Nowak's "immigrant perpetrator" was being protected by the "religion of anti-racism".

Vance has publicly posted that, "Henry Nowak died the same way a civilisation dies: abandoned, handcuffed by authorities who neither trusted nor cared for him, and accused of hate crimes he did not commit." He added that Nowak's murder is evidence "European elites" had failed to oppose the "politics of self-hatred".

The effects of this dangerous stream of disinformation are already apparent. Far-right demonstrations in Southampton became violent, leaving several police officers injured. Some British Sikhs are reporting an unfamiliar surge of animosity towards them, including being spat at, and other forms of physical intimidation or verbal abuse. They say it's happening in gym changing rooms, shopping malls, on the streets. Some are being asked in fearful tones if they carry a kirpan, the ceremonial dagger having assumed a hideous importance in British imagination.

It's a far cry from the goodwill that's marked Sikhs' equation with the British state, and the legal accommodations made for them over the years. Harbans Singh Jabbal is believed to be the first turbaned Sikh in Britain to wear a police uniform, nearly 60 years ago. Turbaned Sikhs are exempt from wearing a helmet while riding a motorbike. Amritdharis are allowed to carry the kirpan.

British govt is trying to push back, but there are limits to what a small country can do when the hyperpower tries to foment a race war. Starmer has forcefully rejected the allegation there is "two-tier policing", which disadvantages white people. His deputy, David Lammy, has challenged Vance's focus on criminal-minded migrants, and correctly described Digwa as "a Brit".

Even so, Hegseth used a D-day anniversary to claim Europe is facing another "invasion" by migrants, some 82 years after the defeat of Hitler's Third Reich. This reasoning is plain: Woke policies give coloured people too many rights, deny white people dominance of their homelands, and enable the cancer of anti-white racism to metastasize, soon to consume Europe. They want multiculturalism and mass migration to end. As also anti-racism protections that provide succour to non-white groups.

This is an argument for returning Europe to a system that measures human value by skin colour. In his second term, Trump's administration has made clear its intention to destabilise liberal European systems in favour of white supremacist ones. It must be heartened that rising anti-immigrant sentiment is reshaping the political agenda across Europe.

Consider this: Switzerland votes on Sunday (June 14) in a referendum to cap its population at 10mn. Led by the rightwing Swiss People's Party, despite opposition from business groups and the federal govt, it is the Alpine version of Brexit, and could be similarly ruinous. The tragedy is that the campaign led by the right across Europe, could snap the very threads that hold its societal tapestry together – tolerance, empathy, humanity.

Male, Age 20, Can't Legally Marry. Let UCC Correct That

BJP state govts are implementing uniform civil codes. But what really needs uniformity, is the legal age for marriage: 18 for men & women. Also, clauses for live-ins are worryingly illogical

Neeraj Kaushal

Professor of Social Policy

Assam recently became the third state to pass a Uniform Civil Code, a common law for people of all faiths, and for long, a BJP election promise. BJP says UCC will bring a uniform law for every citizen. Yet, uniformity in UCC, in all three states, isn't even.

To begin with, men are getting a raw deal. While UCC considers women mature enough to tie the knot at 18, men must wait for three more years, till they turn 21, to take on the responsibility of starting a family. Men cannot even get into a live-in relationship at 18, women can. By Indian law, a man under 21 is a 'child' for the purpose of marriage or live-in relationships, but a woman enters adulthood as she turns 18.

It is not often we see laws discriminating against men, yet, such laws are just as harmful as female discrimination, and a violation of the Constitution. Men, like women, should have the legal right to marry at age 18.

BJP is slowly introducing UCC in states where it is in govt – in Jan 2025, a bill was passed in Uttarakhand assembly and implemented; in March 2026, Gujarat passed UCC and is now in the process of rolling it out. Assam passed the bill end-May.

All three exclude STs "to preserve their constitutional protections", again making 'uniformity' a casualty. In Assam, STs constitute 12% of the state population, and a recent study showed, have a 21% child marriage rate (marriage before age 18). But they remain out of UCC purview.

All three UCCs have a legal framework for live-in couples. But requirement of mandatory registration of a live-in relationship within a month of entering into it, is more like legal strangulation for a live-in relationship. Here, too, there is lack of uniformity – for marriage, the mandatory registration window is 60 days.

In Uttarakhand, failure to register live-in relationships can result in imprisonment of up to three months or a fine of up to ₹10,000. Gujarat's, reportedly, may have stricter penalties. But the larger concern is how does govt propose to implement the clause on live-in registrations? Unlike marriages, most live-in relationships do not have a clear start date.

To understand why, one must study why couples choose live-in arrangements over marriage. A tiny minority get into live-in relationships because they do not see the need for marriage. Most youngsters choose to live-in, if they have the economic means, courage, and/or social milieu, before marriage, to test their compatibility. Such relationships are seen to be more fragile and less durable than marriages. Research shows live-in relationships start in tentative ways. For some, it leads to marriage, some remain as live-ins and some fade away.

Image: AI

Thus, it is not clear how govts will implement it. How will it establish on which specific date a couple entered the live-in relationship, when even the couple is not very certain? What happens when they decide to get out of the live-in relationship? What if a couple is in a live-in relationship for a few months, falls out of it, then gets back into it? Given the hassles, UCC is more likely to discourage live-in relationships that are, in any case, even today a rarity in Indian society.

Non-uniformity aside, UCC remains silent on inter-faith marriages – it is unclear how courts will interpret this silence. Would UCC cover all marriages including inter-faith marriages? Or would they continue to be governed by the Special Marriage Act that requires couples to submit a formal written notice to inform the court at least a month prior to marriage? The notice is publicly displayed for a period of 30 days to allow anyone to legally object to the union. Will UCC bring uniformity between intra-faith and inter-faith marriages? We don't know.

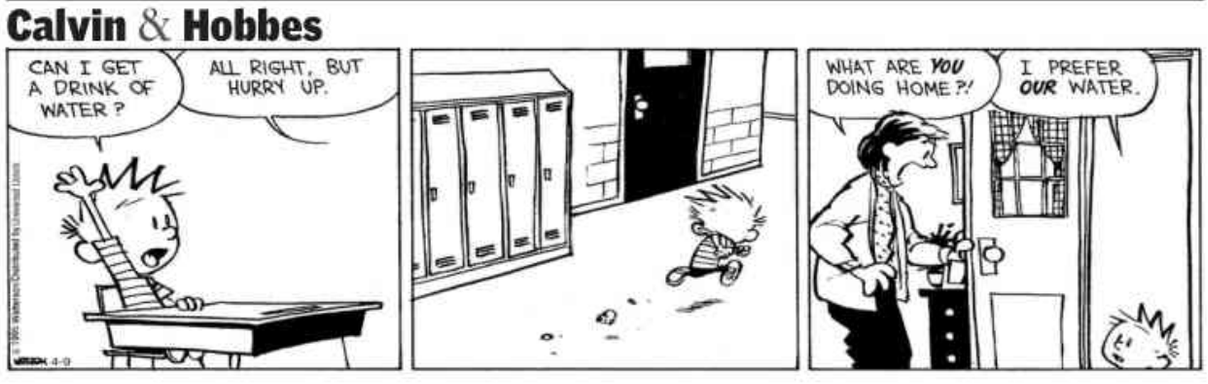
But there can be little wrangle on the marriageable age for men. Worldwide, while almost all countries have a minimum legal age of marriage, gender equality is the norm. Only 38 of the 117 countries for which Pew Research has collected data, treat men and women differently and almost all of them (with the exception of one, Lesotho) have higher minimum legal age of marriage for men than women. In only 20 countries, the legal minimum age of marriage for men is more than 18.

A higher minimum age for men, while discriminatory to them, reinforces patriarchal norms. These norms expect men to be household heads and breadwinners and relegate women to the position of homemakers.

In 2023, Supreme Court dismissed a petition to increase minimum legal age of marriage for women to 21. Fact is, increasing female minimum marriage age to 21 would have made over half of all recent marriages illegal, per NFHS. For the sake of uniformity, as is the global norm, it makes more sense, instead, to reduce marriage's legal age for men to 18.

The writer teaches at Columbia University

Calvin & Hobbes



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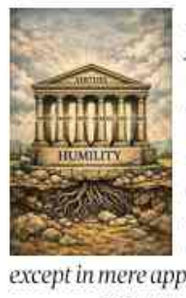

Humility is the foundation of all the other virtues hence; in the soul in which this virtue does not exist there cannot be any other virtue except in mere appearance.

Saint Augustine

Borderless Appeal Of AI And Santa Claus

Narayani Ganesh

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is omnipresent. Many think it is omniscient and omnipotent, too. Anyway, there's no escape. Much like Santa Claus or Father Christmas. Both create magic – Santa fires the imagination, instils hope of goodness, peace and harmony and embodies generosity, charity, goodness and celebration. AI, too, fires the imagination, enables gleaning essential information but AI is neutral like any other technology, so it does not promote any of the virtues and values that Santa does as a keeper of conscience. AI has no emotion, no feeling. It just doles out what was put in, in the format and manner in which you ask for.

Two decades ago, in 2006, Finnair, to flag off their inaugural flight service from India to Finland, invited a few journalists and took us to also visit the office of Santa Claus, in Rovaniemi, in Lapland, in the Finnish Arctic Circle. It was a make-believe world of fantasy, mythology and magic. To meet Santa, "in flesh and blood", and experience the workings of the post office that received more than 60,000 letters, from children across the world, was a dreamy experience. "Every letter is replied to," Santa informed us, as we watched Santa's workforce sorting mail, country-wise.

Some twenty years later, in Norway's Narvik in the Arctic Circle area, a large data centre is under construction in a valley surrounded by ice and snow-capped mountains and freezing fjords. The magic of Rovaniemi is absent, it is all dark and grey. The data centre is one among 800 such centres coming up across the world, all to service AI, the super-duper poker-faced, robotic Santa in the digital era. As a potential tourist destination, it will be nothing like Santa's post office in the Arctic. The AI magic is what one associates with an Alexa or robotic house help, not the kind of magic one associates with Santa.

THE SPEAKING TREE

AI can be dangerous. Most users ignore the disclaimer that comes with every chatbot or other large language models: "The content may contain errors or biases." By contrast, Santa is harmless. His very existence is a disclaimer of sorts; everyone is conscious of this and no one minds.

At a recent conference on 'Dialogues for Harmony' hosted by the Azim Premji Foundation at AP University, Bengaluru, participant Harmeet Shah Singh, communication and advocacy director of United Sikhs, UK, was speaking in a session on 'Seva as the foundation for community and interreligious harmony'. He went hammer and tongs at AI: "Mark my words," he said. "Three years from now, AI will destroy everything."

Harmeet Singh said he asked AI for certain verses from the Gurbani and it promptly provided several, based on the topic in question. On closer examination, when Singh tried to cross-check with Gurbani sources, he found that AI had fabricated all the verses and passed them off as Gurbani. "Is this acceptable?" he thundered. Well, this is tricky. Imagine AI doling out spurious health advice or telling you how to deal with relationship issues. Could be disastrous. Yet, undeniably, AI tools have made sifting information from tomes and mounds of material less difficult, provided one cross-checks the veracity of such AI-generated content.

Neither Santa nor AI need to be trashed. They have their place so long as we know what their place is and we keep them there and not let them take over our lives.

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TIMES BUSINESS
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026

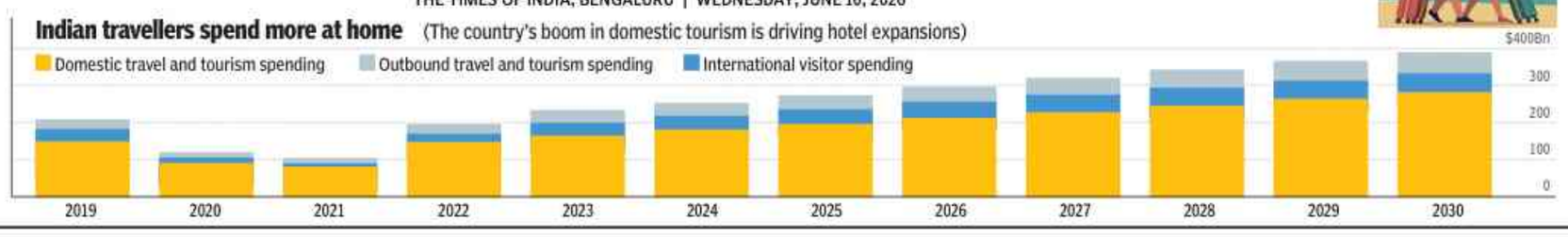
Hotel Giants Bet India's Local Travel Boom Can Defy Slowdown

➤ **Major global hotel chains including Marriott, IHG and Hilton are aggressively expanding in India,** betting that a domestic tourism boom can withstand a broader consumer spending slowdown and stock market slump

➤ **Hotel investments in India surged 67% to $567 million last year, according to JLL, while demand is forecast to rise about 11% annually over the next several years, outpacing supply**

Source: World Travel & Tourism Council); Bloomberg
Note: Figures for 2025 and onwards are forecasts

Indian travellers spend more at home (The country's boom in domestic tourism is driving hotel expansions)



➤ **India has roughly one hotel room for every 3,000 people,** compared with one for every 60 in the US, according to figures from Hilton

➤ The country's domestic travel and **tourism market is expected to reach $216 billion this year,** up nearly 8% from 2025

Domestic eco holding firm amid external shocks: Govt

Economic Activity Retains Momentum In Q1: Top Official

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt on Tuesday said the economy was holding firm amid external headwinds, with the momentum from the March quarter continuing into the current quarter.

"There are external threats to growth, but the domestic economy is making up for that. No one, including China, has the domestic economy going the way it is for us," said a senior govt official. Apart from the war in West Asia, the official counted the looming threat of deficient rains due to El Nino as an external challenge.

Govt officials did not rule out further measures to boost economic activity, including steps to increase FDI flows.

The Indian economy had expanded at 7.8% during the fourth quarter of the last financial year and several agencies have reduced their projections for the current year to around 6.5%, with RBI pegging its estimate at 6.6%, against 6.9% earlier.

The official said most advance indicators, including GST collections and credit growth, are pointing towards growth being sustained. Citing fourth quarter numbers, the official said despite the impact of war in March, the economy managed to expand at a healthy rate and at the time of the budget presentation, other external factors, such as US tariffs, were playing out. From all available indications, remittances from West Asia, with a large Indian diaspora, are also seen to be holding up, although there were fears that flows may be affected. With oil prices remaining high and retailers passing a part of the increase to consumers, inflation is likely to come under pressure, but it remains well within the monetary policy tolerance band of 2-6%. Inflation based on retail price was estimated at 3.5% in April and is expected to be around 4% in May. For the full year, RBI has estimated it at 5.1%, against 4.6% earlier.

While the rupee depreciation has added to the inflationary pressure, govt expects the rupee to bounce back after a series of steps announced in a coordinated action with RBI last Friday is likely to boost inflows. In a report SBI said that additional inflows could be to the order of $55-65 billion in the current fiscal year.

The rupee gained 35 paise on Tuesday to close at 95.35 against the dollar. Apart from attracting flows, govt is keen to be included in the Bloomberg Aggregate Bond Index after it entered the JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s emerging-market debt index in 2024.

Indicators Show Strong Reading

➤ Most advance indicators like GST collections and credit growth are pointing towards sustained growth, says an official

➤ The official added that despite impact of war in March, the economy managed to expand at a healthy rate, citing fourth quarter numbers

➤ Remittances from West Asia are seen to be holding up, although flows may be affected

➤ Inflation may come under pressure due to high oil prices and retailers passing a part of increase to consumers

➤ But, it is expected to remain within monetary policy tolerance band of 2-6%

Paytm to hire 4,000 even as it cuts some jobs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Paytm plans to hire about 4,000 employees over the next nine months as it expands its merchant network and accelerates investments in artificial intelligence, according to a Bloomberg report.

The recruitment drive, running through March next year, will focus on product, technology, AI and leadership roles. The company has already added more than 800 employees over the past two months, Bloomberg reported, citing a company statement. At the same time, Paytm will trim about 1% of its workforce after the current appraisal cycle, affecting roughly 400 employees based on its current headcount of around 40,000.

The planned hiring marks a shift back to growth mode after Paytm cut thousands of jobs following regulatory restrictions imposed on Paytm Payments Bank by the Reserve Bank of India.

Anthropic India seeks exit from Belagavi suit

Belagavi: Proceedings in a trademark dispute before the principal district and commercial court in Belagavi took a fresh turn on Tuesday, with Anthropic India Pvt Ltd (AIPL) seeking to distance itself from US-based AI firm Anthropic PBC in a case filed by local startup Anthropic Softwares Pvt Ltd (ASPL), reports **Ravindra Uppar**. AIPL, through its MD Irina Ghose, filed objections arguing that it is a separate legal entity incorporated in India and cannot be impleaded in the suit. The company contended that the allegations relate exclusively to Anthropic PBC and that there is no legal basis for including the Indian entity in the proceedings. The court adjourned the matter to July 6.

Half-million AI agents at TCS soon: Chandra

N Chandrasekaran Says AI Will Slow Hiring, Agents Could Match Employee Headcount

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: TCS chairman N Chandrasekaran said the IT industry will no longer hire at the scale seen over the past two decades as artificial intelligence takes over parts of traditional work, signalling a structural shift for India's $315-billion technology sector. "The company will not be hiring the kind of numbers it used to hire," Chandrasekaran said at TCS's 31st annual general meeting held virtually on Tuesday.

He said AI agents would increasingly work alongside employees and could eventually match the size of the human workforce. "The company will have an equal number of AI workers—which we call AI agents—as there are employees. If the company has half a million employees, the day is not far when the company will have half a million AI agents," he said.

The remarks come as India's IT services industry grapples with the implications of GenAI automating parts of software development including testing and application maintenance — functions that have historically fuelled large-scale hiring by Indian IT firms.

Chandrasekaran, however, rejected the premise that AI would diminish the industry's long-term prospects. "That does not mean there are no future opportunities. Once the transition happens, the AI world will produce many more opportunities. There will be new talent that will be required," he said. "Some of the work being done today will go to AI agents. That will be the nature of the transition that we have to go through not only as a company, but as an industry and as a country. We need to build a lot of AI skills so people can be gainfully employed."

Addressing concerns that wider AI adoption could lead to job cuts, Chandrasekaran ruled out downsizing. "We just want to have the right talent and we want to use AI agents. The metrics change from talent metrics to how well AI and humans work together," he said.

The comments come at a time when investors are questioning the future of IT services in an AI-driven world. "In late 2024, agentic AI systems began to look genuinely ready for enterprise workflows — writing code, testing software and running technology operations. A serious question crystallised: if AI can do this work, what happens to an industry built around doing it?" he said.

The concern has weighed heavily on technology stocks. "India's Nifty IT index fell more than a third. Globally, shares in technology services and platform companies plummeted," he said. Yet, the industry's operating performance tells a different story. "Margins have held. Revenues are up. The deal pipeline is stronger than ever. The business fundamentals have held."

According to Chandrasekaran, investors are misreading the relationship between AI and IT services. "AI tools reduce the need for human input in building and maintaining software. However, AI does more than reduce effort. It is not merely a technology. It is infrastructure—an infrastructure of intelligence," he said.

Rather than shrinking technology spending, AI is poised to expand it by making intelligence cheaper and more accessible across industries. Chandrasekaran estimates the global enterprise IT market will grow from about $1.6 trillion today to $3 trillion over the next decade as companies accelerate AI-led transformation.

AI WILL PRODUCE MORE OPPORTUNITIES

"We just want to have the right talent and we want to use AI agents. The metrics change from talent metrics to how well AI and humans work together...That does not mean there are no future opportunities

"Some of the work being done today will go to AI agents. That will be the nature of the transition that we have to go through not only as a company, but as an industry and as a country. We need to build a lot of AI skills so people can be gainfully employed

— N Chandrasekaran | CHAIRMAN, TCS

₹12,166 crore raised via divestment so far this yr

▶ Continued from page 1

Oil firm have increased prices and further hikes, in tranches, are likely. The Centre will also have to provide subsidy for cooking gas cylinders as oil companies are incurring losses of around Rs 700 crore a day currently.

While spending cuts or realignments are not planned at the moment, a senior official on Tuesday ruled out seeking parliamentary nod for additional expenditure during the monsoon session. A clearer picture on the revenue and expenditure front will emerge around mid-July when the first quarter trends are available. "There is no need to review our spending plans at the moment as we had factored in global uncertainty when the budget was presented," said an official.

But the disruptions caused after the US and Israel attacked Iran on Feb 28 have prodded the finance ministry towards more fund raising through disinvestment and asset monetisation. Officials said finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is reviewing the situation.So far this year, Rs 12,166 crore has been raised through disinvestment and another Rs 6,367 crore has come by way of asset monetisation.

So far, DIPAM has relied on offer-for-sale to raise money from Central Bank of India, Coal India and NHPC. Govt's offer to divest up to 3% stake in NLC India, which saw the issue being subscribed 5.2 times on the opening day on Tuesday, is expected to mop up another Rs 1,260 crore.

Govt kicks off bourse-based coal trading

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New Delhi: Govt has formally opened the door for exchange-based coal trading in India by notifying the Coal Exchange Rules 2026, laying down a regulatory framework for setting up and operating coal exchanges aimed at bringing greater transparency, competition and market-based price discovery to the coal sector. The rules provide for the establishment of regulated electronic coal exchanges where buyers and sellers can trade coal through standardised contracts under the supervision of the Coal Controller Organisation (CCO). The ministry had designated CCO in Dec as the authority responsible for registering and regulating coal exchanges. Eligible entities will be authorised to establish and operate coal exchanges, frame market rules and bye-laws, and facilitate coal trading.

Advertising, volumes to drive profitability: Zepto

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Bengaluru: Quick commerce platform Zepto is pitching a high-volume model to public market investors as it prepares for its IPO, arguing that scale, density and advertising will eventually drive profitability.

The company's updated draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) shows a business growing rapidly on orders but still trailing market leader Blinkit on profitability. Zepto processed 210 million orders in the January-March quarter of FY26, nearly double Swiggy Instamart's 112.6 million orders during the period. Blinkit processed 273.9 million orders.

Yet losses remain steep. Zepto's adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) loss stood at Rs 1,248 crore in the March quarter. Instamart reported an adjusted EBITDA loss of Rs 858 crore, while Blinkit posted an adjusted EBITDA profit of Rs 37 crore. The comparison is not entirely like-for-like. Zepto reports net receivables value (NRV), which includes the value of goods sold after discounts along with user fees, subscription income and advertising revenue. Blinkit reports net order value (NOV), while Instamart follows a marketplace-led model. The filing itself notes that peer comparisons have limitations because accounting treatments and adjusted EBITDA definitions differ across companies.

The central theme of the filing is Zepto's focus on density and repeat purchases. The company says it follows an everyday low-price philosophy, where lower costs per order support lower prices for consumers. Its strategy is to drive more orders through the same dark-store network, shorten delivery distances, and improve store productivity.

The filing also uses grocery buying behaviour to explain why quick commerce is built around frequent, low-ticket purchases rather than monthly stock-ups. Citing Redseer data, it says dairy products are bought six to seven times a week, while fruits and vegetables are purchased five to six times weekly. Together, the two categories account for 35-45% of grocery spending. By contrast, staples such as rice, wheat and edible oil are bought less frequently but carry significantly larger basket values.

Apple bets on new Siri to get AI right this time

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New Delhi: Apple has spent the past two years watching rivals race ahead in artificial intelligence, while its own AI ambitions stumbled amid delays and missed deadlines. At its Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) 2026, the company attempted a reset, unveiling a rebuilt Siri powered by Google's Gemini models and positioning the assistant at the centre of its next computing platform.

The stakes are high. Apple's original Apple Intelligence rollout failed to deliver several headline Siri features showcased in 2024, forcing delays to capabilities promoted alongside new iPhone launches. The setback dented confidence in Apple's AI execution and reinforced perceptions that it was trailing rivals such as Google, OpenAI and Microsoft in the generative AI race. With Siri AI, Apple is betting on a more conversational assistant that can

WWDC 2026

understand personal context, on-screen content and app activity. The company says Siri can draw on information across emails, messages, photos and apps while combining that with broader web knowledge through Gemini.

Industry analysts say Apple's goal is not to compete directly in the race to build the world's most advanced AI models. "Apple's moat is delivering privacy-led consumer AI experiences through its hardware-software differentiation — not the frontier model itself," said Prabhu Ram, vice-president, Industry Research Group at CyberMedia Research (CMR). "Frontier model development requires a scale of investment that falls outside Apple's core strategic priorities." Ram said Apple is increasingly focused on controlling the user experience layer, while relying on partners such as Google for underlying model capabilities. Siri may use Gemini's intelligence, but Apple retains control over privacy, integration and ecosystem design.

Need to register gig workers by June 21, govt tells platforms

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New Delhi: Govt has ordered all digital platform aggregators, including Swiggy, Zomato, Uber, Blinkit, Ola, Rapido and Zepto, to upload details of their gig workers and complete their integration with the e-Shram portal by June 21, a move precursor to ensuring social security benefits.

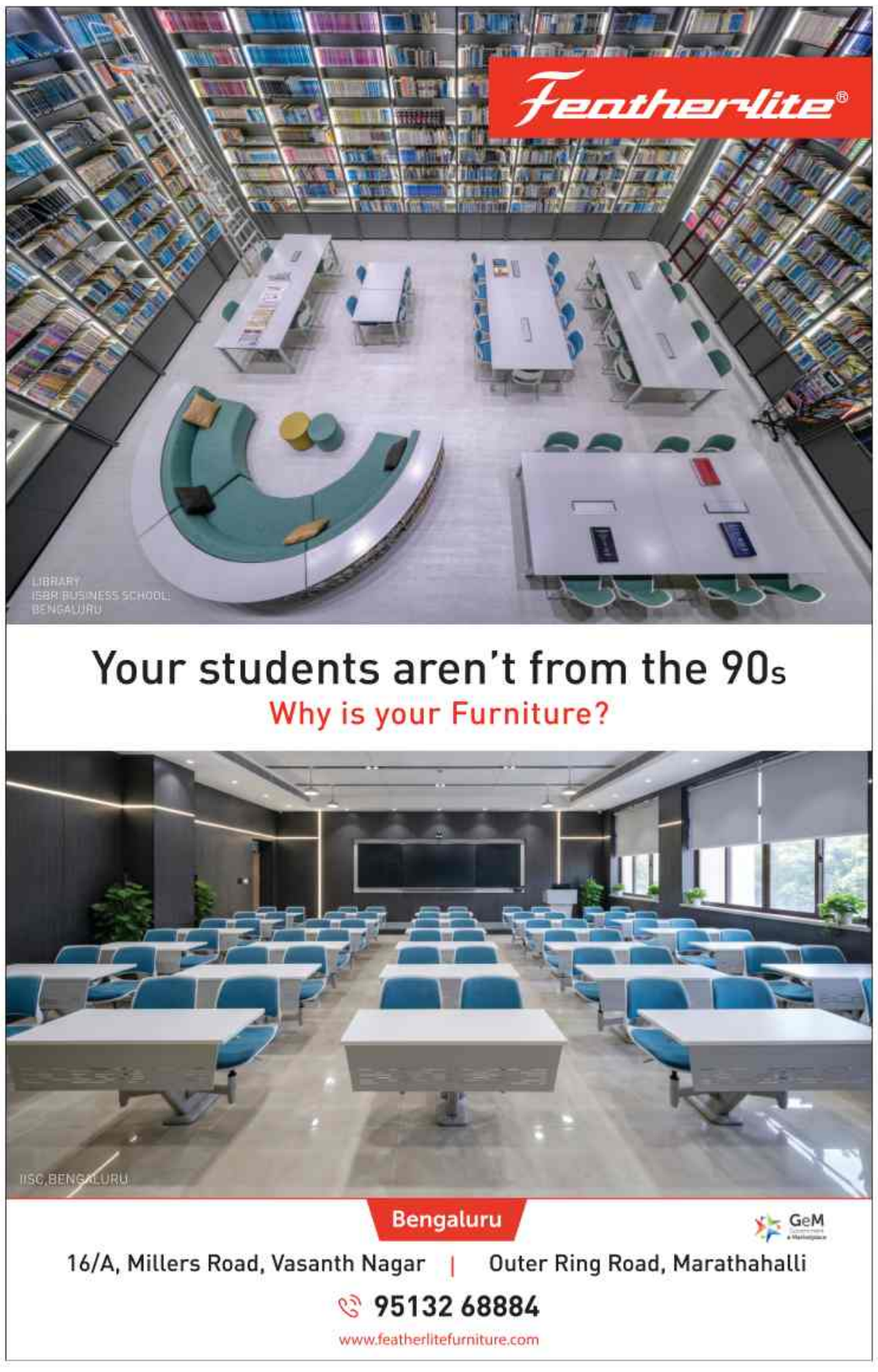
The directive follows rules formulated under the Code on Social Security last month, which mandates compulsory registration within 45 days. The move will help govt to design and implement social security schemes, such as health and life insurance, as well as pension plans, along with creating a national ID, which will enable easy mobility and formalising the unorganised nature of work.

Missing deadline will trigger penal action under Social Security Code

In its circular, the ministry warned that missing the deadline will trigger strict penal action under the Social Security Code. "Timely adherence to the timeline will facilitate effective implementation of the mandated social security framework and help avoid penal provisions," it said.

The newly-enforced rules define gig and platform workers as someone who works at least 90 days a year, with an aggregator or 120 days in case of multiple aggregators. The rules also mandate that aggregators register all new appointments and exits on a real-time or daily basis on the central govt portal.

Sheikh Salauddin, co-founder at Indian Federation of App Based Transport Workers (IFAT), said govt has repeatedly asked aggregators in the past to share data and onboard the workers, but several aggregators have not taken the matter seriously. "Aggregators must act responsibly and comply with the law and should not cause further delays. Workers cannot continue to wait endlessly for their welfare measures," he said.



TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026

KATY PERRY AND JUSTIN TRUDEAU MAKE FIRST RED CARPET APPEARANCE TOGETHER AT NEW YORK'S TRIBECA FESTIVAL

HEATHER LOCKLEAR SAYS SHE DOESN'T HANG OUT WITH H'WOOD PEOPLE: 'I LIVE SO FAR AWAY, IT'S BEEN 40 YEARS'

RICH MAN IS NOTHING BUT A POOR MAN WITH MONEY
— W C FIELDS

BYD, Alibaba, other tech giants aiding China's military: US

Washington Will Have To Suspend Contracts With These Firms Under New Law; Beijing Says 'List Discriminatory'

Washington/Beijing: The US on Monday added Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, internet search provider Baidu, and automakers BYD and NIO to a list of firms it believes are aiding Beijing's military, in a move that could inflame tensions between the countries.

The long-awaited update supersedes a list from early 2025, and comes less than a month after President Donald Trump met China's Xi Jinping on a visit to Beijing, where the two leaders maintained a delicate trade war truce.

China's foreign ministry said in a statement on Tuesday that the list was discriminatory and "unreasonably suppressed" Chinese companies, urging America to "correct its mistaken practices".

The list now includes a broad swathe of China's top technology firms key to advancing Beijing's military and industrial prowess, reflecting Washington's security concerns amid intense geopolitical competition between the countries.

In Feb, when Trump's trip to China had been pending, the Pentagon briefly posted an updated list, known as the 1260H or CMC list, but then quickly withdrew it with little explanation. The new version released on Monday mirrors the withdrawn Feb list with the exception of the inclusion of China's top memory chipmakers CXMT and YMTC.

Other firms added include biotech firm WuXi AppTec , AI-driven robotics company RoboSense Technology Co Ltd and

Reuters

The list comes less than a month after President Trump met China's Xi Jinping on a visit to Beijing

Unitree, a leading Chinese maker of humanoid and quadruped robots. On June 1, US AI chipmaker Nvidia said it plans to work with Unitree to build robots for researchers.

Though the list does not formally impose sanctions on Chinese firms, under recent US law the defence department will be prohibited starting later this month from contracting directly with companies on the list, and from buying their products or services via third parties beginning in 2027.

Firms vow legal challenge

BYD, the world's largest EV seller, said in a statement that it firmly opposed being labelled a military company and would use "administrative and legal means" to safeguard its rights and interests, adding that the decision harmed "its development achievements in the US".

Alibaba said in a statement there was "no basis" for its inclusion on the list. "Alibaba is not a Chinese military company nor part of any military-civil fusion strategy. We will take all available legal action against attempts to misrepresent our company," the e-commerce and tech conglomerate said. Other firms too hinted that they would take the legal route.

Removal from list possible

Companies can at times be removed from the list not because the US determines they aren't linked to China's military, but because they no longer operate in the US or because an entity's name has changed. The listed firms "qualify for designation as 'Chinese military companies,'" and operate in the US, the Pentagon said in its filing, which is required at least annually. The firms can petition for removal, it added.

Chinese genetic sequencing firm Novogene said in a statement to Reuters that it was already in touch with US authorities to seek its removal from the list.

'Reality check'

Being added to the list also sends a potentially damaging message to Pentagon suppliers and other US govt agencies about the US military's opinion of the firms, some of which have sued the US over their inclusion. Craig Singleton, a China expert at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank in Washington, said the publication of the list served as a post Trump-Xi summit reality check on the heightened state of US-China competition. "Washington is no longer treating these as isolated firms. It is treating the entire technology stack as strategically contested," Singleton said. REUTERS

Intel dossier details violence by Pak forces in POK during June 5-9

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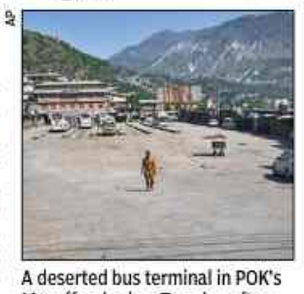
Amidst the escalating unrest in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), an intel dossier has detailed systematic violence by Pakistani forces in POK between June 5 and June 9, noting that it was the Barmang Bridge shooting which sparked the wider crisis. The Pak military, it says, targeted the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), a peaceful movement demanding economic reforms, banning it under anti-terror laws. Chaos unfolded after the targeted assassination of JAAC executive member Shahzaib Habib by the army.

Official fatalities are of 11 men, but report reveals that 19 children and seven pregnant women were among those killed. Pakistan has deployed 14,000 mainland troops, imposing a communications blackout and firing live ammunition at unarmed mourners.

The unrest, it says, stems from deep-rooted grievances over political marginalisation and the exploitation of the region's hydropower resources to benefit mainland Pakistan, while local residents face chronic electricity shortages and high tariffs, it says.

The JAAC had mobilised the public around a 38-point Charter of Demands, which included restoring affordable wheat subsidies, abolishing state-funded privileges for politicians, securing regional resource royalties, and genuine local governance free from Islamabad's interference.



AP

A deserted bus terminal in POK's Muzaffarabad on Tuesday after activist groups called for a strike demanding greater political rights

"The protests reignited after govt failed to fulfil the Oct2025 Muzaffarabad Agreement, missing a six-month deadline to address these constitutional and economic demands.

Violence escalated sharply following the killing of Habib," the report reads. Pak military launched mass arrests, detaining over 72 civil leaders and sealing the JAAC's central office. On June 7, security forces used batons, tear gas, and live ammunition against mourners gathered for Habib's funeral prayers.

As 4.5 million Kashmiris were called to march on June 9, violence erupted across multiple districts. In Bhimber, forces shelled unarmed civilian convoys attempting to march towards Rawalakot. In Mang, where 27 civilians were reportedly killed, protesters captured Pakistani military personnel. The report also documents the killing of POK police sub-inspector Sardar Inayat by Pakistan army. Inayat was executed for refusing to follow orders to open fire on protesters.

US moves to strip Indian, 16 others of citizenship over serious offences

Washington: The US on Monday said it had initiated proceedings to revoke citizenship of 17 persons, including an Indian immigrant, who were accused of serious offences.

Among the 17 persons, 50-year-old Neeraj Sharma, the owner of a New Jersey-based staffing company Magnavision LLC, allegedly signed and filed 11 fraudulent H-1B visa petitions, claiming that the individuals would be employed with a global financial institution, the department of justice said. The letters submitted by Sharma as supporting documents for H-1B petitions allegedly carried forged signatures of executives of the global financial institution, it added. The DOJ said Sharma had applied for naturalisation in 2017 and claimed that he had falsely testified under oath during his naturalisation interview about his prior criminal conduct. The justice department said Sharma became a US citizen in December 2017. He was later convicted of fraud and misuse of visas for conduct that occurred between April 2015 and April 2017.

"American citizenship is a privilege, and it must be earned honestly. If you come here, break our laws, and lie in your immigration proceedings, you forfeit that privilege," said department of homeland security secretary Markwayne Mullin in a statement. Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, a naturalised US citizen's citizenship may be revoked, and certificate of naturalisation cancelled, if the naturalisation was illegally procured or procured by concealment of a material fact or by willful misrepresentation. PTI

Trump: Iran downed Apache helicopter patrolling Hormuz

Vows To Respond; Israel Kills 8 People In Fresh Strike In Lebanon's Tyre

Washington/Beirut/Dubai: US President Donald Trump said on Tuesday Iran had shot down a US Apache helicopter overnight and vowed to respond, but gave no other details. "I have just been informed by our Great Military that last night the Iranians shot down one of our highly sophisticated Apache Helicopters while patrolling over the Strait of Hormuz," Trump wrote in a social media post. He said the two US pilots involved in the incident were both safe and uninjured. "Nevertheless, the US must, of necessity, respond to this attack," he added. His remarks threw into deeper uncertainty the prospects for a truce announced on April 8 in the war in the Gulf.

On Monday, Israel and Iran said they would halt attacks on each other after an appeal by Trump to end their first direct exchanges of fire since April, but Tehran warned it would resume hostilities if Israel continued to attack its ally Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Monday's flare-up added further strain to efforts to broker a peace deal to end the wider West Asia war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

In remarks earlier on Tuesday about the downing of the Apache helicopter, Trump had said the two US helicopter crew members were "fine" following their rescue by a US navy drone, but he had made no comment about what brought the Apache down. A US navy surface drone found and rescued the two crew, the US military told Reuters. US Central Command said the AH-64 Apache went down at around 3 am on Tuesday.

In Tehran, two Iranian air defence personnel were due to be buried on Tuesday afternoon after being killed in Israeli strikes the day before, Iran's military said. No deaths were reported in Israel after the Iranian strikes.

Israel, meanwhile, struck the historic port city of Tyre in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, killing at least eight people. Tuesday's raids were the deadliest on Tyre since fighting erupted in Lebanon in early March, when Hezbollah launched rockets at Israel in support of Tehran after Israel and the US began their war against Iran. Israel had issued an evacuation order for the city earlier on Tuesday. Residents fled and civil defence teams transported elderly residents into temporary shelters, state media reported. The eight victims were killed in a single strike on the city's eastern edge, Lebanon's health ministry said. A video verified by Reuters showed debris strewn across a road at the site of the attack. Last week, Israel's military said Hezbollah fighters were hiding out in Tyre. Lebanese state media had reported people fleeing the city on Tuesday morning after the online evacuation order, with civil defence teams transporting elderly residents into temporary shelters. REUTERS

AFP

People flee from Tyre in Lebanon after Israel's evacuation warning

You better be careful, or you will be on your own very soon, Trump told Bibi

US President Donald Trump has cautioned Israeli PM Netanyahu that Israel risks international isolation if it resumes extensive military operations against Iran, following a volatile 24-hour period of escalating cross-border hostilities. Detailing his conversation with Netanyahu, Trump told Axios, "I said, 'Bibi, you better be careful, or you will be on your own very soon.'" The warning highlights Trump's mounting anxieties that renewed combat could sabotage ongoing attempts to broker a diplomatic accord with Tehran and pull Washington further into a regional war. Trump reportedly pressed Netanyahu to exercise restraint, asserting that a breakthrough in diplomatic talks could materialise within days. ANI

Militants kill 6, abduct 8 security personnel in NW Pak: Officials

Peshawar: Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants killed six paramilitary personnel and abducted eight others during an attack on a checkpoint in northwestern Pakistan, security officials said on Tuesday.

Dozens of members of the militant group, which claimed responsibility for the attack, stormed a checkpoint in the city of Peshawar with firearms, hand grenades and mortar shells on Monday, an official said on condition of anonymity.

"Six personnel of the Federal Constabulary (FC) were martyred and four others wounded in an attack carried out by armed militants," said a second security official, referring to Pakistan's paramilitary force which contributes to much of the frontline security in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which borders Afghanistan.

The TTP posted an image of the men it had abducted on its social media channel and claimed responsibility for the attack. Last month, militants killed 26 people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in several attacks. PTI

EU orders Meta to open WhatsApp to rival AI chatbots for free of charge

Brussels: The EU ordered Meta on Tuesday to give rival AI chatbots access to its WhatsApp platform for free within five working days as it carries out an antitrust probe, or risk a heavy fine. Meta said it would appeal the order, which follows the launch in Dec of an EU investigation into the US firm's policy of blocking access for AI providers other than Meta AI.

The European Commission, EU's digital watchdog, said Meta will have to maintain access to competitors until Brussels wraps up probe. "This will prevent serious harm to competition in this growing market by Meta's conduct, which at first sight infringes EU competition rules," the commission said.

A Meta spokesperson said the measure would allow "OpenAI and some of the largest companies in the world" access for free, adding: "This is regulatory overreach subsidised by the many European companies that pay." AFP

Kashmiris protest outside Pakistan consulate in UK

London: Kashmiri protesters on Tuesday staged a demonstration in front of the Pakistani consulate in Bradford, the UK, over the firing on mourners at a funeral in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) in which at least 11 people were killed. This came days after 30 British MPs sought diplomatic intervention over the massive human rights abuses in POK.

Protesters accused the Pakistani authorities of using excessive force against civilians participating in demonstrations across POK.

A British parliamentary group of around 30 MPs raised concerns over reports of communication disruptions, arrests, and increasing tensions in POK. In a letter sent to the UK foreign office, Bradford East MP Imran Hussain, who chairs the all-party parliamentary group on Kashmir, cited reports of a communications blackout as part of a lockdown in the region. The letter urged the UK govt to "engage proactively and use diplomatic channels to encourage a peaceful resolution" of the situation. PTI

Nepal to reopen probe into royal palace massacre

Kathmandu: Nepal's newly-reappointed home minister Sudan Gurung on Tuesday announced that he would reopen files related to the royal massacre of 2001, in which the entire family of then-king Birendra Shah was killed.

An official probe commission had in its report said that then crown prince was behind the massacre. Dipendra, under the influence of alcohol, reportedly killed his father, mother, brother, sister and other family members before killing himself, said the probe commission's report, which was dismissed by many at that time. PTI

Awami members can fight local polls as independents

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Amid a visible resurgence of Awami League supporters and a series of surprise street processions across Bangladesh — despite it being banned under anti-terrorism laws — the Tarique Rahman-led govt will allow party members to contest the upcoming local govt elections in their "individual capacities".

The deliberations reflect the challenge of managing a political force that continues to command visibility and support, especially at the grassroots, in spite of its exclusion from formal politics after the ouster of its chief Sheikh Hasina as PM in 2024.

PM's information adviser Zahed Ur Rahman said Awami League leaders holding party positions would be eligible to participate in local govt elections, provided they meet all legal requirements. "There is no problem with any individual participating in the election. However, it will become a problem if someone uses name, symbols, or slogans of a banned organisation or Awami League in campaign," he said.

Though Zahed spelled out the conditions, the move could reshape the country's evolving political landscape, which post-2024 has been majorly restricted to Tarique-led BNP and its rival Jamaat-e-Islami.

Govt is expected to begin a phased rollout of local govt elections after monsoon, likely from Sept or Oct.

Stabbing in Belfast sparks immigration row in UK

London: UK PM Keir Starmer's office called for calm on Tuesday after police said they arrested a Sudanese suspect over a stabbing in residential Belfast in northern Ireland that drew national attention because of graphic videos of the attack shared online.

Police said the victim, a man in his 40s, was taken to the hospital with serious injuries to his eyes, face and back late Monday. They said the suspect, who is in his 30s, was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and remains in police custody. A kitchen knife was found at the scene.

Police were trying to determine the motive, but there was no information to suggest the attack was terrorism-related, said Ryan Henderson, assistant chief constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. He added that police were not seeking anyone else connected to the attack.

AP

Police secure the area around the scene of stabbing in North Belfast

Gavin Robinson, the leader of Democratic Unionist Party, told parliament that the perpetrator was living in the UK under a five-year visa and urged authorities to curb "uncontrolled immigration". When pressed on the question in parliament, northern Ireland secretary Hilary Benn said he could not confirm whether the alleged attacker came to the UK illegally. AP

DAILY PLANET

AFP

36-FOOT-HIGH WAVES LASH WELLINGTON: New Zealand on Tuesday evacuated hundreds of people from their seaside homes in the capital city of Wellington as 11-metre-high (36-foot) waves lashed the coast. A state of emergency was declared for seaside residents in Owhiro Bay, Island Bay, Houghton Bay and Breaker Bay. Authorities said a similar event in 2021 affected many homes in Breaker Bay. Wind gusts were so strong at Island Bay that two women were knocked off their feet as waves washed up over the road. Some flights were cancelled at Wellington Airport where wind gusts were recorded at up to 128kmph

Sweden to ban smartphones in schools from fall

Long championed as a leader in adopting digital technology, Sweden is set to ban mobile phones in schools beginning in the fall for the next academic year as part of a broad, international reversal on the use of screens in classrooms. Lawmaker Joar Forsell, chairperson of the Swedish parliament's education committee, said officials have seen a decline in the general ability to read and write in Sweden, especially among younger students. "We're rolling the screens back because we believe that books and more traditional ways of learning are better for kids," Forsell said. Sweden's plans are part of a broader shift and a digital reckoning against smartphones in schools internationally. In the Nordics, Denmark looks set to implement a similar ban to Sweden, and a law restricting use of mobile devices in schools in Finland came into effect last Aug. Other countries from Spain to South Korea have also taken steps that range from a ban of mobile phones in classrooms to limits on screen-based homework.

Japan city relieved after wild bear is caught: A bear that roamed the streets of a Japanese city for four days, forcing mass school closures, was caught on Tuesday, capping a search involving dozens of hunters and police. Terrified families in the city of Utsunomiya, north of Tokyo, peered through windows as a search mission that included helicopters tried to track down the animal following multiple sightings. On Tuesday dozens of police officers, hunters and city officials surrounded a private home where the bear was spotted, an AFP photographer witnessed. After a successful tranquiliser shot, they captured the animal.

Boo York, Boo York! Trump gets wake-up call in city that never sleeps

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: In New York City, few traditions are more sacred than complaining about traffic and berating politicians. Donald Trump, the first US President to attend an NBA final, managed to trigger both on Monday night.

As Trump's visage appeared on the jumbotron during the national anthem before Game 3 between the local New York Knicks and San Antonio Spurs at Madison Square Garden, boos and jeers rumbled across the iconic arena that has hosted among others, Mohammed Ali, the Pope, and PM Narendra Modi.

The moment instantly went viral on social media, generating thousands of comments, memes and jokes that competed for attention with the game itself, which the Knicks lost after a 13-game winning streak, causing an even greater meltdown among passionate fans.

Reuters

Trump with granddaughter Kai and New York Knicks owner James Dolan attend Game 3 of the NBA Finals at Madison Square Garden in New York

"At this point, if Trump showed up at a birthday party, I'd hide the cake. If he attended a wedding, I'd put the divorce lawyers on standby. If he visited a sunflower field, I'd start looking for wilted petals," one anguished fan wrote.

Trump saw things differently. "You mean when they had the camera on me? I thought it was very good," he later told reporters. "It was, I think, mostly cheers. It was loud, and it was very enthusiastic."

Except, outside MSG, New Yorkers were already in a mood, giving the President, a former NewYorker himself before he decamped to Florida, a sonic middle finger. Trump's appearance had triggered a Secret Service operation that transformed Midtown Manhattan into a DMZ. Streets were closed, barricades clattered down, and fans had to navigate security checkpoints that made getting into MSG feel like crossing the southern border.

The disruptions were significant enough for the Knicks to cancel their outdoor watch party near MSG, leaving thousands of fans wondering how a basketball game had suddenly become a government exercise in crowd control.

"Imagine shutting down half of Manhattan just to get booed," one X user wrote. Another quipped: "The Knicks finally made the NBA Finals after almost a quarter century and New York still found something else to yell about."

Conservative media outlets and Trump supporters quickly moved into damage-control mode, performing mental calisthenics that became almost as entertaining as the original footage. While Fox and their friends argued the boos were mixed with cheers, others suggested tv microphones exaggerated the negative reaction, while one commentator claimed that any reaction, even a negative one, showed Trump's continuing political relevance.

Hovering over the spectacle was New York's newly elected mayor, Zohran Mamdani, whose own rise has become one of the biggest political stories in America. Mamdani attended the game but made clear he had little interest in sharing the spotlight with Trump. H

According to some trolls, Trump even managed to nod off in the middle of a raucous game – in a city that never sleeps. If Trump came to watch the Knicks make history, he succeeded — just not in the way he intended. The crowd booed. The city snarled. The Knicks lost for the first time in 13 games. And somewhere across the five boroughs, thousands of New Yorkers reached the same conclusion: maybe for Game 4, Mr President should watch from Mar-a-Lago.

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This week and the next, we are celebrating Times Techies' 7th anniversary and 500th issue. Over these years, we've brought to you inspirational techies, phenomenal Made-in-India stories, and lots and lots of tips on how to build your career in tech, and where you might find the most exciting work. Here are visuals from our earliest pages.

THE FUTURE OF AI IS TEACHING machines how businesses work

SAP CEO Christian Klein says India's decades of enterprise software expertise could become a key advantage in the next phase of AI

Akhil George & Sujit John | TNN

> The first phase of AI was about infrastructure, chips and large language models. That's where most of the investment has gone. The next phase is different. The question is no longer who has the biggest model, but who can teach AI how businesses actually operate. The real value will come from understanding supply chains, finance, manufacturing and regulation, and turning that knowledge into business outcomes.

The conventional wisdom in AI is that the winners will be the companies building the biggest models and the countries investing the most money in chips and data centres.

SAP CEO Christian Klein believes the next winners may look very different.

The German software giant's chief executive argues that large language models are steadily becoming commoditised and that the next battle will be fought in a less glamorous corner of the technology industry: teaching AI how businesses actually operate.

"The first phase of AI was about infrastructure, chips and large language models," Klein told TOI on Tuesday during his trip to New Delhi where he spoke to the Prime Minister. "The next phase is different. The question is no longer who has the biggest model, but who can teach AI how businesses actually operate."

That shift, he believes, could create a significant opportunity for India.

For much of the past three years, the AI conversation has been dominated by companies such as OpenAI and Anthropic, along with the chipmakers powering the boom. Countries have been judged largely by whether they have produced a world-class foundation model.

By that measure, India has often been portrayed as lagging behind.

Klein sees the situation differently.

As AI moves beyond chatbots and content generation into the day-to-day running of businesses, he believes a different set of attributes will become valuable. Simply training a model on vast amounts of public information will no longer be enough, instead the AI models will have to be taught how supply chains work, how factories operate, how procurement decisions are made, how inventories are managed and how companies comply with regulations.

"The real value will come from understanding supply chains, finance, manufacturing and regulation, and turning that knowledge into business outcomes," Klein said.

This is the thinking behind what SAP calls the "autonomous enterprise".

Rather than focusing on AI assistants that answer questions, SAP wants to build AI agents that can perform business tasks. These systems are being trained on decades of enterprise data and business processes collected across industries ranging from manufacturing and retail to utilities and transportation.

SAP believes such agents will increasingly handle activities such as financial closing, inventory optimisation, workforce administration, sourcing decisions and contract reviews.

The striking part is how quickly Klein believes the shift is already happening.

"No one at SAP is checking contracts anymore," he said. "That's all done by AI already."

Yet Klein does not see foundation model companies as competitors.

"I have no sleepless nights about that," he said when asked about firms such as Anthropic. "You need both. You need SAP's AI and an LLM to really apply AI successfully."

As Klein explains it, an AI model may be able to summarise a report or answer a question, but it does not automatically know how to close a company's books, optimise a manufacturing line or manage a procurement workflow. That knowledge, Klein argues, sits inside enterprise systems and business processes.

Christian Klein, CEO of SAP, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Klein said he had an hour-long talk with Prime Minister Narendra Modi where the two discussed India's 2047 development ambitions, AI-led improvements in agriculture and infrastructure, workforce skilling, and stronger economic ties between India and Europe.

Indian IT fears overblown

The implications extend well beyond SAP. For decades, Indian IT services companies built global businesses by helping organisations implement software and redesign business processes. The rise of generative AI has raised concerns that automation could undermine parts of that model.

Klein believes the opposite may happen.

"There is a perception that AI threatens the traditional IT services industry," he said. "I think the bigger story is how it transforms it."

According to him, companies adopting AI will increasingly need partners who understand both technology and business operations.

"Companies will need partners who understand how businesses run, how processes work and how AI can be embedded into day-to-day operations," he said. "The future is not just about building models. It's about teaching those models how to create value inside an enterprise."

That is one reason Klein believes India may be better positioned for the next phase of AI than many assume.

"A lot of people assume India missed the AI race because the biggest foundation models came from elsewhere," he said. "As AI moves from research to real-world business applications, India's strengths become much more important."

Those strengths stem from decades spent helping global companies run their operations. Indian technology firms, consultants and engineers have accumulated deep expertise in sectors ranging from banking and manufacturing to logistics and healthcare.

In Klein's view, that experience could become one of the country's biggest advantages as AI becomes more embedded in business operations.

The shift is already changing the skills SAP itself is looking for.

Rather than hiring large numbers of traditional software developers, the company is increasingly seeking data scientists, data engineers and AI specialists capable of building and training intelligent agents.

"It's not about coding features any more. That's done by AI," Klein said. "It's about developing very smart agents and providing them to our customers."

For young engineers, he believes technical skills alone will not be enough.

"The best people are the ones who not only have the technical skills to build an agent, but also understand the business problem they are trying to solve," he said.

> My advice to young engineers is to learn how to build AI agents, but don't stop there. The real value won't come from coding alone. The people who will be in highest demand are those who combine technical skills with a deep understanding of business problems. AI can generate code, but it still needs people who know what problems are worth solving.

> A lot of people assume India missed the AI race because the biggest foundation models came from elsewhere. I don't see it that way. As AI moves from research to real-world business applications, India's strengths become much more important. The country has decades of expertise in enterprise software, implementation and business processes. That knowledge will be critical in training and deploying the next generation of AI agents.

SAP's India ops

The German firm is also increasingly looking to India as a critical part of their strategy to create AI agents that are adept at running business functions. The company recently opened a second Bengaluru campus and Klein said India is now SAP's largest development centre globally by headcount. SAP Labs India is about 17,000 strong. More importantly, he said, Indian teams are taking ownership of products and AI innovation.

"There is no one in Germany, no one in the US telling the people what to do," Klein said. "We really shifted complete responsibilities over."

The company plans to bring its entire global leadership team to Bengaluru in January. Klein also said SAP is working with Indian partners including TCS and the Adani Group on sovereign cloud initiatives that would keep data, operations and AI development within the country. As businesses move from experimenting with AI to deploying it at scale, Klein believes India will play an increasingly important role in shaping how enterprise AI is built and adopted around the world.

Why companies may soon need 'AI archaeologists'

Akhil George & Sujit John | TNN

> The biggest AI opportunity isn't creating another model. It's understanding the knowledge that organisations never documented. Every company has years of decisions, context and insights buried in emails, chats and people's heads. AI exposes those gaps. The professionals who can uncover that hidden knowledge, question assumptions and spot what the machines miss will create the most value in the years ahead.
> **– Nisheeth Srivastava** | CHIEF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION OFFICER – INDIA, CAPGEMINI INDIA

The most valuable AI skill of the next decade may have nothing to do with coding.

It may involve uncovering forgotten decisions buried in old emails, understanding why a business process evolved a certain way, or identifying assumptions that nobody bothered to document.

Nisheeth Srivastava, chief technology and innovation officer for India at Capgemini, says the biggest obstacle facing companies as they rush to adopt AI is not the technology itself. It is the vast amount of knowledge trapped inside organisations that exists only in human memory.

That challenge, he argues, is creating an entirely new category of jobs – roles that blend technology, business understanding and critical reasoning in ways that barely existed a few years ago.

"Look beyond the glare of the trillion-dollar investments in the AI world," Srivastava said. "The proportion of implementation in live environments is still very small."

The reason, Srivastava argues, has to do with the fact that businesses accumulate information across thousands of systems, databases and applications, and employees learn to navigate those complexities instinctively. AI systems can't.

"The 'what' is usually documented," Srivastava said. "The 'why' often is not."

A decision recorded inside an enterprise system may show what action was taken. The rationale behind it could be hidden in an old email chain, a Teams conversation, a meeting discussion or simply inside somebody's head.

As companies attempt to deploy AI agents capable of making decisions and executing workflows, those missing pieces suddenly become critical.

This is where a new generation of roles is beginning to emerge.

Srivastava spoke about concepts such as "AI archaeology", "semantic authority" and "outcome deployed engineers" – terms that sound unusual today but could become increasingly common as enterprises move from AI experimentation to large-scale deployment.

The idea behind AI archaeology is straightforward. Before an AI system can operate effectively, someone needs to uncover and interpret years of hidden organisational knowledge.

Imagine a large company where one department uses the term "customer", another uses "client", and a third uses "purchaser". Human employees understand the differences because they have absorbed them through experience. AI agents do not.

In a traditional business environment, those inconsistencies might create minor inefficiencies. In an AI-driven environment, they can lead to significant errors.

"The world was built for human business workflows," Srivastava said. "Even the errors happened at human speed."

AI changes that equation. Now companies increasingly need people who understand not only technology but also language, business context and organisational behaviour.

All of this, Srivastava said, could make domain expertise more valuable than ever.

"If everybody can build, then what separates you is the application," he said. "It is your domain-centricity. It is your tribal knowledge and wisdom and insights that are not in the textbooks."

Srivastava believes the competitive advantage is shifting from having technical knowledge towards something harder to automate. "The premium is moving from 'Can you do the work?' to 'Can you critically reason about the work?'"

That ability, he argues, is becoming more important because AI systems are exceptionally good at generating answers but far less capable of questioning their own assumptions.

Future work demand

For Srivastava, all of this has implications for the future careers of young people. While AI engineers and machine learning specialists will remain in demand, Srivastava expects growth in areas that sit at the intersection of technology and human judgement.

AI governance specialists, compliance experts, integration architects, domain experts and trust auditors are likely to become increasingly important.

Many of these roles may be filled not by engineers but by graduates from law, commerce, management, psychology and even the humanities. "You do not have to be an engineer to play in the AI world anymore," he said.

AI Career Edge

How to transform AI pilots into biz impact

SujitJohn@timesofindia.com

Enterprises are not short of AI ambition. They are short of the hard plumbing needed to turn ambition into business change.

That was the consensus in a discussion that we had in association with Publicis Sapient, as part of a series called `AI that's built to deliver'. The problem, they said, is rarely the lack of AI experiments. It is the inability to change workflows, data foundations, operating models, governance, talent and business ownership to make AI solutions scale.

"Thousands of pilots are going on. But the question then becomes, how do I create value and outcomes out of it?" said Harish Gudi, SVP at Optum Insight, the data, analytics, and technology services division of Optum, a subsidiary of UnitedHealth Group, the world's largest healthcare company. That, he said, requires reimagining processes. In healthcare, that means rethinking, for instance, the journey from insurance claim filing to cost determination, payer processing, member communication and payment. Today, that can take days or months. AI, Gudi said, offers a chance to make the process real-time, frictionless and end-to-end.

Sanjay Menon, EVP and MD for India at Publicis Sapient, said many pilots stall because they are managed in a sandbox. Scaling requires changing the operating model. He cited a retailer that used AI in a pilot project to cut demand-signalling-to-inventory-procurement time from seven days to six hours. But the company stopped at five days because going further would require changing processes and roles. "Where they get stalled is usually just on the intent of how much are you ready to bite the bullet and let the change scale," Menon said, adding that ultimately, leadership is key.

Sanjiv Kumar, digital engineering lead for corporate banking at Kotak Mahindra Bank, provided an example from supply-chain finance to underline the importance of process change, and the responsibility of leadership. He said if a previously onboarded customer comes with a request to finance 100 invoices, should he be asked to produce all 100 invoices, or are a few enough, can AI read the invoices and reconcile them.

> For any transformation, AI cannot be treated purely as a technology play. It has to be embedded within the business. No model, platform, or solution will deliver outcomes if it is not tied to business decision-making. Also, while AI can enable faster decisions, it is critical for leadership to take ownership and drive the change.
> **Sanjiv Kumar** | DIGITAL ENGINEERING LEAD, CORPORATE BANKING, KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

> Start with the hardest problems first, those that deliver the highest impact and operate at scale across large processes. Look at AI as a means to fix what was broken before, not to disrupt what already works well. For example, if empathy has been your differentiator, do not dilute it.
> **Mohua Sengupta** | SVP & COUNTRY HEAD - INDIA, THE STANDARD

> Leadership decision-making is what will drive AI. Historically, we thought of technology, sales, business, marketing, all in isolation. AI was seen as part of the technology tower. But it is not. AI is inbuilt into everything. It is not something someone else will build. If business leaders understand that, the whole AI project will get much bigger sponsorship.
> **Shaji Philipose** | VP & MD - INDIA GCC, BRIDGESTONE

> MIT prof George Westerman's quote `transformation is about the caterpillar becoming the butterfly, not a faster caterpillar' is relevant here. An AI proof-of-concept is easily managed in a microcosm. It creates value – a faster caterpillar – but it does not disrupt. When you seek to increase the blast radius of the change, operating model change becomes necessary. Without that operating model change, it never becomes a butterfly.
> **Sanjay Menon** | EVP AND MD - INDIA, PUBLICIS SAPIENT

> AI transformation needs a focus on change management. One is how well you can upskill your talent. Two is to make sure AI is well adopted in day-to-day work activity. Most important is to ensure every use case that is delivered is business-value-driven, not a hobby project.
> **Sandhya Varanasi** | VP, INDIA HUB CTO, ENERGY MANAGEMENT, AND CHAIR, INDIA R&D COUNCIL, SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC

> We have more than 3,000 AI use cases in production at scale. But that number is just one part. The whole pivot from use cases to value streams, and bringing it all together to change the overall ecosystem and friction, is what makes the difference. It's about reimagining processes versus just using everyday AI to do things slightly better.
> **Harish Gudi** | SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, OPTUM INSIGHT

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SCAN TO WATCH THE COMPLETE DISCUSSION

Getting Governance Right

AI governance is another essential element in scaling. Mohua Sengupta, SVP and country head for India at US insurance company The Standard, said the critical factor in insurance is trust. Insurers engage with customers during difficult moments. That makes full automation neither desirable nor acceptable. "In insurance, the gating principle to move from experimentation to scaling is trust," Sengupta said. So, auditability is key, and there's no question of automating empathy. t The Standard, AI is being used, for instance, to identify missing data faster, reducing claims timelines by six days in some cases. A decision engine has cut another two days. But Sengupta said while claim acceptance can be AI-led, denials always have a human review.

Kumar said banking faces similar constraints because it deals with public money. There are some use cases, he said, where you can be predictive, but ultimately, certainty of the software is essential.

Rewards & Competencies

Shaji Philipose, MD at the India GCC of globally tyre maker Bridgestone, underlined how employee performance metrics need to change to ensure AI's business impact. He noted how organisations traditionally looked at how many people have been put into a job, how many hours they worked. "I think the future is all about who is agile enough to adopt all the latest AI tools, who is taking risks, who has the guts to take a decision that can impact several jobs," he said.

Sandhya Varanasi, India hub CTO for energy management at Schneider Electric, emphasised the criticality of upskilling talent, and leadership's central role in this upskilling, and in continuously evaluating how competencies are evolving. "With AI, what are the shifts in roles happening, should a particular role be completely transformed? That's a key role we play as leaders – to constantly evaluate that," she said.

AI Governance CTRL+F(IND)

AI governance refers to the rules, policies and processes that ensure artificial intelligence is used responsibly, safely and ethically within an organisation. It helps companies decide how AI systems are developed, tested, monitored and controlled. Good AI governance ensures that AI is accurate, transparent and compliant with laws and regulations. It also addresses issues such as data privacy, security, bias, accountability and human oversight. For example, AI governance might require that important decisions made by AI are reviewed by humans, or that AI models are regularly checked for errors and unfair outcomes. In simple terms, AI governance is the framework that helps organisations use AI responsibly and confidently.

CUP FEVER GRIPS PUEBLA AS SPAIN BEAT PERU

La Roja Show Why They Are Tournament Favourites

Puebla: Spain beat Peru 3-1 in their final World Cup warm-up match on Monday, giving thousands of fans in Puebla a glimpse of one of the tournament favourites days before the global showpiece begins.

Mikel Oyarzabal opened the scoring after two minutes with a fierce strike from the edge of the area before Pedri doubled the lead after the half-hour mark, tapping into an empty net following a cross from Ferran Torres.

Spain added a third early in the second half when Yeremy Pino's delivery forced an error from goalkeeper Pedro Gallese, before Jairo Velez pulled one back for Peru with a low finish.

Champions of 2010, Spain open their campaign against Cape Verde on June 15.

World Cup fever was evident around the stadium in Puebla, where Spain shirts dominated the stands alongside Barcelona jerseys, reflecting the club's strong representation in Luis de la Fuente's squad. Peru supporters were outnumbered but remained vocal.

Pedri, Rodri and Ferran Torres drew some of the loudest cheers as fans broke into chants and performed Mexican waves around the stadium.

World Cup merchandise stalls lined the streets outside, while heavy security protocols did little to dampen the festive atmosphere. "It was a match to build momentum, and we've managed to do just that," Pedri told reporters.

"I didn't realise they loved me so much here in Mexico."

Oyarzabal's opener extended his scoring streak with Spain to six consecutive games. "I try to help in any way I can," Oyarzabal said. "As a group we know what we have to do and we trust each other." REUTERS

Reuters

Spain's Ferran Torres (right) and Peru's Marcos Lopez during the pre-WC friendly in Puebla, Mexico

Luka Modric and the Croatian team depart from Zagreb

FULL CIRCLE FOR BROOS AT AZTECA

Puebla: South Africa coach Hugo Broos' career comes full circle on Thursday when the World Cup kicks off at the Azteca Stadium, 40 years after he played for Belgium against Mexico at the very same venue.

The 74-year-old takes charge of South Africa in the opening match against the co-hosts, returning to the iconic Mexico City stadium where Belgium lost 2-1 to Mexico in their opening encounter at the 1986 finals.

"It was a fantastic event and something I will never forget, 40 years ago when we played our opener against Mexico. That was when I felt how special the World Cup is," he said. In front of a crowd of 110,000 fans, Belgium, with Broos in the starting line-up, lost 1-2. REUTERS

OLDEST COACHES

74 **Broos** (in pic) will become, even if only for a few hours, the oldest man to coach at a World Cup.

74 The Czech Republic's Miroslav Koubek is seven months older, and they compete in the second game of the tournament later on Thursday against South Korea in Guadalajara.

78 Dick Advocaat is the oldest coach in this WC, and he will be leading out Curaçao in their first game on Sunday.

Deschamps tips hat-trick man Olise to shine

Paris: It might not be Kylian Mbappe or Ballon d'Or holder Ousmane Dembele lighting up France's attack at the World Cup. Instead, it could be the discreet and unassuming **Michael Olise**, with his golden first touch and devastating changes of direction. Starting when two-time champion France takes on Senegal on June 16 in New Jersey.

The Bayern Munich winger enters the tournament in fine form after netting a superb hat trick against Northern Ireland on Monday, taking his total to seven in 17 games for Les Bleus.

Coach Didier Deschamps fielded his first-choice side and it was Olise who stood out most in a glittering attack featuring Mbappe, Dembele and rising star Desire Doue. "He's been shining brightly this season at Bayern and he's done great things for us. He's brimming with confidence, he's so decisive," Deschamps said of Olise. "On top of that, as an attacking player he also has a remarkable capacity for hard work."

After two finishes inside the penalty area, Olise curled a brilliant shot into the top left corner after breaking inside from the right flank with one of his sudden switches of play. He does it so deftly and quickly that its become his signature move and helped the 24-year-old score 22 goals for Bayern this season.

Deschamps said Olise impressed him at the 2024 Paris Olympics. There, he was coached by Thierry Henry — the France and Arsenal great — and Olise's two goals and five assists helped Les Bleus reach the final.

Olise called the Paris Games "the best football experience of my life" because they "allowed people to get to know me." He praised Henry for sharing his vision of the game. But when Olise stepped up to the senior side, Deschamps said it took him "four or five" games to show his true potential because he was shy. "He's not a very expressive character. He's rather introverted, but he's very endearing," Deschamps said.

Olise's first international goal came on his sixth appearance, and it showcased his ability as he bent a free kick into the top corner against Croatia in the 2025 Nations League.

Born in London, Olise began his professional career with Reading after being released by Chelsea and Manchester City. While playing for Reading in the second-tier Championship he was named the English Football League's young player of the season.

He joined Premier League side Crystal Palace in 2021, and three seasons with Palace were enough to convince Bayern to sign him in a deal worth $65m.

Olise added goal-scoring to his superb range of passing and in two seasons at the German giant he's netted 42 goals in 107 games, albeit in an extremely attack-minded team. AP

Trophies	Assists	Goals
3	31	22

FOR FRANCE

Games **17**

Goals **7**

Jota will be in Robbo's heart, writes widow

Diogo Jota's widow said in a letter to Scotland captain Andy Robertson she is sure her late husband will be in his "heart" when he leads the side out for their opening match in the World Cup on Saturday.

Rute Cardoso, the mother of Jota's three children, said in her letter — which FIFA published along with a video of Robertson reading it — his words that night had touched her deeply. "When I heard your words and learnt what you felt on that day when Scotland qualified for the World Cup, after so many years of waiting, I realised that Diogo never truly left the pitch," wrote Cardoso, who married Jota days before he died alongside his brother.

"By securing your place at the World Cup, you won't be going alone.

"You'll be taking his dream with you too. And when you step on to the pitch, I know it won't just be you walking out. Diogo will be with you in your thoughts, in your steps, in your heart.

"So today, I want to thank you for not forgetting him. Thank you for taking him with you." AFP

Neymar 'recovering well' from calf injury

Morristown: Neymar is "recovering well" from the calf injury that has made him a doubt for the start of Brazil's World Cup campaign, the team said in a statement on Monday.

Brazil's all-time record scorer underwent an MRI scan on Monday which showed he is "making good progress in his treatment" amid hopes that he will be able to play a part for Carlo Ancelotti's side in the United States.

"He will continue to follow the recovery schedule and fitness programme as planned by the Brazil team medical staff," the Brazilian Football Confederation said.

Neymar was diagnosed with a calf injury late last month and has since been in a race to recover fitness, with Brazil kicking off their campaign on Saturday.

He did not take to the field with his teammates for Monday's workout at Brazil's base, the new training ground of MLS outfit New York Red Bulls, near Manhattan. AFP

SNAP SHOTS

Getty Images

Serena Williams (left) and Victoria Mboko in action at the Queen's Club on Tuesday

B'desh stun Australia

Bangladesh stunned Australia with an 86-run win via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method in their opening ODI in Dhaka on Tuesday, taking a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. **Brief scores: Bangladesh: 284/8 in 50 overs** (Tanzid 54, Shanto 67, Mosaddek 86 n.o.; Ellis 3-38, Scott 2-57, Renshaw 2-35) **bt Australia: 191/9 in 42.2 overs** (Connolly 35, Carey 47, Green 52 n.o.; Mustafizur 2-24, Rana 4-41, Mosaddek 2-37) via DLS.

Lord's pitch rated 'unsatisfactory': Lord's has been handed an "unsatisfactory" pitch rating for the first Test between England and New Zealand after the hosts sealed a 115-run win inside four days of a rain-hit, bowler-dominated match.

India settle for draw: India conceded a late goal to settle for a 1-1 draw with Tajikistan in the second international football friendly in Hisor on Tuesday. Vikram Partap Singh (23) scored for India in the first half, but a defensive lapse from the visiting side seven minutes from time gave Tajikistan a spot-kick, and Sheriddin Boboev (84) slotted the ball past the Indian goalkeeper.

Wembanyama shines: Victor Wembanyama scored 32 points to spark the San Antonio Spurs over New York 115-111 in the NBA Finals, snapping the Knicks' 13-game win streak with President Donald Trump booed as he watched. Spurs cut the Knicks' lead to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

Falcon prevail: Falcon HC defeated Bengaluru Blues HC 4-2 in the KSHA Super Division Hockey League Championship in Bengaluru on Tuesday. **Results:** 5 'C' Sports Club 2 (Pankaj Sharma 31, Sami Rizwan) bt Metro HC 1 (Kabilan 33); Falcon HC 4 (Appachu 13, Jayaprakash 15, Suresh 38, Goutham Ganapathi 48) bt Bengaluru Blues 2 (Vijay Uthaiah 17, Pranav Thimmaiah 40).

Srishti becomes World No.1 in U-13: Bengaluru tennis prodigy Srishti Kiran added another feather to her cap, becoming World No.1 in the U-13 age-group rankings. It comes on the back of a fine run that saw Srishti win five consecutive ITF junior titles before finishing runner-up at the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors J100 in Guatemala recently. Her consistency propelled her to a career-high ITF junior ranking of 357, making her the highest-ranked in the U-13 category.

New ODI dynamics to the fore

As Preparations Begin For The World Cup, The Focus Is On The Return Of Mega Stars & The Need To Form A Core Team For The Big Event In 2027...

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

Mohali: When India's ODI team assembles here in Mohali on Wednesday, it will be the formal onset of their preparations for the ODI World Cup in South Africa in Oct-Nov 2027. Rohit Sharma and Hardik Pandya are expected to be declared fit for the three-match ODI series against Afghanistan starting in Dharamshala on Saturday. Even as the selectors and the team management try to get combinations right, the first thing they need to address is the dressing-room dynamic.

CRICKET

Since Shubman Gill took over as full-time ODI captain last Oct, India have lost both the ODI series that he played in, against Australia and New Zealand. The only series India won was against South Africa at home when Gill was ruled out due to a neck injury. With Gill's two predecessors Rohit and Virat Kohli fighting doubts over their ability to last another 17 months till the World Cup, there is a sense of unease in firming up a core. Head coach Gautam Gambhir is yet to flex his authority in the ODI format. The chest-thumping results in the T20 format notwithstanding, there is a big difference when it comes to the ODI setup — the presence of mega stars like Rohit and Kohli in the dressing room. Pandya, it is learnt, too has to prove his utility as a bowler in the format. The selectors have been consistent in ruthlessly wielding the axe over the last year.

Sources told TOI that the team management and some of the senior players need to be brought on the same page. It has also been learnt that a few senior players have been in constant touch with power centres in BCCI to get clarity about the plans going into the 2027 ODI World Cup. Kohli, about to turn 38 in Nov, will not be part of the Afghanistan series due to a hamstring injury. But he recently made it clear that he doesn't want to be in an environment where he is made to "prove his worth".

Rohit, now 39, firmly believes he can go one better than finishing runners-up in 2023. While Kohli has been in regal form since the South Africa series in Nov, Rohit's approach at the top of the order has been more measured since he led India to the ICC Champions Trophy title in March 2025.

"With such big players in the team, Gill needs to have a stronger say in the dressing room. Gambhir hasn't got involved in the planning as intently as he has done in the other two formats. So far, he has let things take its course," a BCCI source said.

"Now that the focus has shifted to the preparations for the ODI World Cup, one may expect Gambhir and Gill to take charge and firmly communicate their ideas in the dressing room. It's important to convey to the senior players, who have served India with distinction for so many years, what role the team expects them to play," the source added.

Getty Images

CLOSE CALL: Rohit Sharma

Siraj rested; Prasidh named replacement

IANS

Mumbai: Mohammed Siraj has been rested as part of workload management, with Prasidh Krishna named as his replacement for Ireland and England tours, the BCCI said on Tuesday.

The Indian Cricket Board described the move as a "precautionary measure" to ensure quick recovery ahead of the long international season. Siraj was named in the squad for the Ireland and England series consisting two and five T20Is respectively but was not picked for the Asian Games in Japan.

IRE & ENG TOUR

"Mohammed Siraj has been withdrawn from India's squads for the upcoming T20I series against Ireland and England," the BCCI said in a statement. "Following discussions between the BCCI Medical Team and the Team Management, Siraj has been advised a period of rest as part of his workload management programme. The decision has been taken as a precautionary measure to ensure adequate recovery ahead of a long international season. The Men's Selection Committee has named Prasidh Krishna as Siraj's replacement for both T20I series," the BCCI added. PTI

Prasidh Krishna

India 'A' pull off 8-run victory

Dambulla: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's first outing for India 'A' in one-day cricket ended with a muted 14 but his team hung in there till the end against Sri Lanka 'A' to pull off an eight-run win in the tri-series opener here on Tuesday.

TRI-SERIES

Chasing 278, Sri Lanka 'A' had the game in the bag after captain Sahan Arachchige made 74 off 72 balls. However, the inexplicable loss of last four wickets in 10 balls, including three in the final over from pacer Arshad Khan, gave India 'A' the win. The seasoned Ruturaj Gaikwad made a composed 101 to lead India 'A' to 277 for six. The spin duo of Ayush Badoni (2/46) and Anukul Roy (2/49) kept India in the game after the pacers, especially Anshul Kamboj, leaked runs early in Sri Lanka A's chase.

Electing to bat, India 'A' were 16 for two in five overs after early dismissals of Sooryavanshi and Prabhsimran Singh. But Gaikwad, who fetched his 21st List A hundred in 112 balls, and skipper Tilak Varma (60, 97b) added 150 runs for the fourth wicket to steady India's ship. **Brief scores: India 'A': 277/6 in 50 overs** (Ruturaj Gaikwad 101, Tilak Varma 60; Mohamed Shiraz 2-67) **bt Sri Lanka 'A': 269 all out in 48.5 overs** (Arachchige 74; Arshad Khan 2-24, Ayush Badoni 2-46). PTI

'Stokes may step down after nightclub fiasco'

London: England Test captain **Ben Stokes** could announce his retirement following his involvement in a nightclub incident alongside teammate Gus Atkinson. The incident happened on Sunday night after England outplayed New Zealand by 115 runs in the first Test of the summer at Lord's. TalkSport reported on Tuesday that Stokes is likely to step down from his role and could also announce retirement.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has already launched an investigation into the incident, also allegedly involving a rugby player. The ECB is currently investigating a breach of team protocols following the conclusion of the first Test against New Zealand. Stokes and Atkinson were present at a nightclub in the early hours of Monday morning when an incident took place. "We are currently seeking further information, and an announcement regarding the squad for the second Test will be made in due course. The Cricket Regulator has been informed and we will provide a further update when possible," ECB said.

IN FOCUS

Harry Brook, the team's vice-captain, had apologised for an altercation with a bouncer in New Zealand last year. Former England pacer Steve Harmison came in Stokes' defence. "When the full facts come to light, then I think we can make judgement. Ben's a great kid. He's an honest lad and he's somebody who will know whether he's overstepped the boundaries or not," Harmison told TalkSport. "I'm fully behind him and he'll do whatever needs to be the right thing to be done in this situation once the facts come out. So I've got no issue with that." PTI

Crown Drive for feature

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: Crown Drive, trained by Suresh, to be ridden by apprentice jockey Aleemuddin looks good in a field of nine runners for the Amba Vilas Palace Trophy. Rise Again, to be ridden by Umesh, is the next best for the race to be run over a distance of 1200 metres. The first race starts at 1.30 pm.

1. The Arakalgudu Plate 1100M: Stormrider 1, Dazling Hawk 2.

2. The Chaitanya Chakram Plate (Div. II) 1100M: Our Asset 1, Fashionista 2.

3. The Malavalli Plate (Div. II) 1400M: Walter 1, Iron King 2.

4. The Chaitanya Chakram Plate (Div I) 1100M: Windborne 1, Purple Martini 2.

5. The The Malavalli Plate (Div I) 1100M: Cloudy Hills 1, Gold Fame 2.

6. The Amba Vilas Palace Trophy 1200M: Crown Drive 1, Rise Again 2. **7. The Bidadi Plate 1600M:** Sada 1, Natural Speed 2.

8. The Kollegal Plate 1400M: Klimt 1, Groovin 2.

Day's best: Walter. **Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. **Mini Jackpot:** 5, 6, 7 & 8. **First Treble:** 1, 2 & 3. **Second Treble:** 3, 4 & 5. **Third Treble:** 6, 7 & 8.

In-form Ridhima starts favourite

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: The in-form **Ridhima Dilawari** will look to continue her strong run this season as the seventh leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour (WPGT) gets underway here on Wednesday.

Having won three of the six events this season, the Order of Merit leader will enter the tournament as the overwhelming favourite as the second half of the domestic leg tees off at the Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Course (JWGC). At the par-70 course, Ridhima will face stiff competition from Vani Kapoor. The seasoned Vani, who has played only three of the six events this season, will look to get her first win of the season.

GOLF

Also in the fray are Mysuru's Vidhatri Urs, along with Amandeep Drall, Tvesa Malik and Neha Tripathi. A total of 51 players, including 11 amateurs, will compete for a total prize purse of Rs 17 lakh.

On the eve of the tournament, JWGC President Arun Kumar HS said the tournament's return to Mysuru reflects the confidence reposed by the Women's Golf Association of India (WGAI) in the club's course. International golfer Vani Kapoor said the course closely mirrors European playing conditions, with its narrow fairways, small greens and challenging wind conditions providing a complete test of skill and strategy. The tournament will be inaugurated by Mysuru Regional Commissioner Nitish Patil.

Avinash does the 'trick

Bengaluru: Avinash M netted a hat-trick to power Black Moon to a comfortable 6-0 win over Yelahanka FC in the KSFA 'C' Division League football championship here on Tuesday.

Results: North Zone: Gp C: Black Moon 6 (A Jude Franklin 3, James A 24, Mark Stephen 33, Avinash M 42, 47, 54) bt Yelahanka FC 0; Ronaldo FC 8 (Lunjakai Bate 3, 4, 48, Satlenchung Kipgen 10, Md Riyas PS 21, Sanju Kumar S 33, Ramesh B 43, Kevin Xavier 45) bt Victoria FC 0; Play 365 6 (Rohan MS 2, MD Shan MP 14, 30+2, Shushruth M 25, Dhanush MV 36-pen, Nihal K 45) bt Annsh SC 1 (Arun Kumar 10). **Gp D:** DB United 10 (Johnson S 4, 14-pen, 24, 37, Sanjay S 11, Adarsh A 18, Josh Raj M 23, Melvin A 45, C Christopher 56, Joseph Fernandes 66) bt Pioneer FC 1 (Remisiama 45); RV FC 1 (Raju 53) bt Agni Puthra FA 0. **'D' Division: Gp C:** Willow Sports 4 (Dennilson 4, 25, 40, R Sai Saren 35) bt Team Plan C 0. **Gp D:** Premier Sports 2 (Rishi Kant 21, Arick Thapa 33) bt FCA 0; Rammurthy Nagar 1 (Gokul M 1) bt Bangalore Saints 0. TNN

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GOAL RUSH

11 Jun 2026 – 19 Jul 2026

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026

"SOCCER WOULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT IMMIGRANTS. IMMIGRANTS PLAY AND COACH THE GAME, WORK IN THE STADIUMS, FILL THE STANDS. SIX OF THE PLAYERS ON THE US MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM ARE IMMIGRANTS."

—ZOHRAN MAMDANI
NEW YORK MAYOR

THE CUP OF DISCORD

Politics and Sport Collide At The Biggest World Cup In History

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There is no sporting event in the world that enjoys such a feverish build-up to the main event. Such is the global appeal of the 'beautiful game' and the FIFA World Cup. However, the 2026 edition, the first to feature as many as 48 teams, has struggled to adhere to that trend. For many fans, excitement has given way to anger, frustration and despair.

Long before a ball has been kicked, the disgruntled lot already appear convinced that the biggest World Cup in history will also go down as the worst.

The negativity isn't misplaced. Exorbitant ticket prices, strict travel bans and visa delays and skyrocketing public transport costs all don't exactly help build a festive atmosphere. Nor does war for that matter, particularly one sparked by one of the three host nations.

More than three months after the United States and Israel launched an attack on Iran, the ripple effects continue to be felt by a tournament that football fans normally cannot wait for. A World Cup taking place in the backdrop of a military conflict is itself not a new phenomenon. After all, the tournament was put on hold after 1938 for 12 years because of the second World War.

The infamous 'Football War' between El Salvador and Honduras in 1969 cast an ugly shadow over the 1970 World Cup hosted by Mexico, as did the Falklands War fought between Argentina and the United Kingdom just days before the 1982 World Cup kicked off in Spain.

This, however, is notably the first time we have a host nation at war with one of the participating countries.

That inevitably raised doubts over Iran's participation in the tournament, doubts that the United States president Donald Trump hardly helped allay. "The Iran national soccer team is welcome to the World Cup, but I really don't believe it is appropriate that they be there, for their own life and safety," Trump wrote in a social media post back in March.

Not surprisingly, the Iran national team was quick to respond to what they viewed as a veiled threat. "The only country that could be excluded is one that merely carries the title of 'host' yet lacks the ability to provide security for the teams participating in this global event," the team posted on Instagram.

What has unfolded since then has been nothing short of a PR disaster for FIFA, the game's global governing body.

As far as Iran was concerned, football could wait. There was the matter of first obtaining US visas, a process that the Iranian players and team officials may have guessed would turn out to be a battle in its own right. And that it certainly was.

After weeks of uncertainty, the players were all granted visas last Friday — 10 days before their opening game against New Zealand in Los Angeles on June 15. The drama, though, didn't quite end there, as Iran's football federation revealed several members of the squad, including "key managerial and administrative members", were refused visas.

As the Iranian team touched down in Tijuana this week amid tight security, Abolfazl Pasandideh, Iran's ambassador in Mexico, said 15 members were not granted visas to enter the US according to a media report. The response from the US state department was a good indication of how the world's most popular sport has turned into a political weapon, while FIFA stands idly by.

"We will not allow the Iranian team to abuse this system to sneak terrorists into the US under false pretences," a state department official told the media.

Was it any surprise then, to see Iran opt to switch their training base from Arizona to Mexico? If they have had to endure a hellish ride simply to get to the World Cup, the road ahead hardly offers much comfort. The players may have received their visas, but Pasandideh added that they were granted on the strict condition that the team would enter and exit US soil on the same day as their scheduled matches.

It's not just the Iranians, though, who have been dealt harsh treatment by American authorities. Iraq's leading striker Aymen Hussein was detained and interrogated by US customs and border patrol agents at Chicago airport for seven hours before he was permitted to enter the country. The team's official photographer, however, was sent back. So too, Somali referee Omar Abdulkadir Artan, who was named Africa's best male referee in 2025 and would have been the first from his country to officiate at a World Cup.

The development once again cast the spotlight on the strict immigration policies put in place by the Trump administration, with a travel ban imposed on citizens of 12 countries, including Somalia.

Journalists and fans haven't been spared either. A BBC report, citing analysis of travel data, states "fans from more than a quarter of the countries taking part in the World Cup are facing travel bans, tighter restrictions or high visa rejection rates".

The president of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), Gianni Merlo, meanwhile, has urged FIFA to intervene, in a letter to the governing body, in which he has described the visa situation that's impacted many journalists, including those from Iran and African nations, as "unacceptable".

Criticism of the Trump administration's hardline stance on immigration has even come from prominent voices within, with New York mayor Zohran Mamdani ruing how such measures clashed with the tournament's very ethos. "This is anathema to what this tournament is supposed to be about," Mamdani, a lifelong football fan, told reporters.

Hard questions, at least from some sections of the media, have been asked of FIFA, including allegations of double standards over its differing approaches to Russia's war with Ukraine and the US-Israel attack on Iran. Some have also asked if the US's strong reluctance to host Iran is any different from Indonesia's firm opposition to Israel's participation in the U-20 World Cup three years ago. That led to FIFA stripping the Southeast Asian country of hosting rights.

TOI raised these questions to FIFA's media team in an email sent a week ago. At the time of going to press, the governing body was yet to respond.

Even as the war shows no sign of receding, fate may yet deliver a spicy twist to this World Cup story. Should Iran and the US each finish second in their groups, the two nations could clash in the round of 32. Bear in mind, that potential blockbuster would take place on July 3, a day before the US celebrates its 250th anniversary of independence — a salivating prospect, maybe even for the disgruntled lot.

The beautiful game, played in arguably the ugliest of times!

AFP

THE FINAL ACT OF USA '94: This poignant image of a dejected Roberto Baggio after missing a penalty against Brazil in the 1994 World Cup final was in stark contrast to what was a vibrant tournament in a welcoming host country. Thirty two years later, it all looks so different as the World Cup returns to the US, Canada and Mexico

THEN AND NOW

A look at differences between the 1994 World Cup, the first in the United States, and the 2026 tournament, to be played in the US, Mexico and Canada

Category	1994 World Cup	2026 World Cup
Ticket Prices	Ranged from $25 to $475 using standard fixed rates.	Ranged from $140 up to $10,990 using dynamic demand pricing.
Tournament Size	Featured 24 teams playing 52 total matches.	Expanded to 48 teams playing 104 total matches.
Total Attendance	Set a historical record of 3.59 million fans.	Projected to reach 6 million to 7 million fans.
Geographic Scope	Hosted entirely within 9 stadiums in the United States.	Split across 16 stadiums in the US, Mexico, and Canada.
Water Breaks	Required players to play straight through intense heat.	Added scheduled 3-minute climate breaks in each half.
Substitutes	Limited teams to two regular substitutes plus one keeper.	Allowed five regular substitutes, plus extra-time and concussion rules.
Leadership	Run locally by US Soccer head Alan Rothenberg.	Run directly by FIFA and president Gianni Infantino.

TIME TO ASK APOLLO

MIGRAINE IMPACT
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KNOW GROUP K

Country	Best finish	Path to finals
Portugal	Third Place (1966)	(UEFA) Group F Winner
DR Congo	Group Stage (1974, as Zaire)	CAF/Inter-confederation Playoff WinnerGroup Stage (1974, as Zaire)
Uzbekistan	No previous appearances	(AFC) Third Round Group A Runner-Up
Colombia	Quarterfinals (2014)	(CONMEBOL) Third place

GROUP L

Country	Best finish	Path to finals
England	Winners (1966)	(UEFA) Group K Winner
Croatia	Runner-Up (2018), Third (1998, 2022)	(UEFA) Group L Winner
Ghana	Quarterfinals (2010)	(CAF) Group I Winner
Panama	Round of 16 (1998)	Group Stage (2018)

THE DOCTOR WHO KNOCKED HIMSELF OUT!

BACK PASS

Image: AI

The inaugural 1930 World Cup in Uruguay produced one of football's strangest sideline moments. During the USA's semifinal against Argentina, team doctor and coach Bob Millar rushed onto the pitch to treat an injured player. In the process, he dropped his medical kit, accidentally releasing chloroform fumes. Millar reportedly inhaled enough of it to faint himself and had to be carried off the field by players. The sight of the man sent to rescue the injured becoming a casualty remains one of the most bizarre incidents in World Cup history.

Getty Images

THE SHOT-STOPPERS: Germany goalkeepers Manuel Neuer (front) and Oliver Baumann train in North Carolina

Messi may play in final tune-up

Kansas City: Argentina seem to be trending up health-wise ahead of their World Cup opener on June 16. Lionel Messi is recovering from left hamstring muscle fatigue which forced him to prematurely exit his final Inter Miami match before the World Cup break on May 25. He might see some playing time in Argentina's final tune-up against Iceland on Tuesday.

Whether or not he plays this week, the 38-year-old is still expected to become one of the first two players to play in matches at six World Cups alongside Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo. Even beyond Messi, the health of the team is improving. Midfielder Nico Paz, as well as defenders Nahuel Molina and Gonzalo Montiel, all fully participated in Sunday's training session at Kansas City, Kan.

Paz, set to make his World Cup debut at 21, has been sidelined since sustaining a left knee injury on May 10. Molina and Montiel have a combined 96 appearances for Argentina at right back, both representing the country at the 2022 World Cup, where Molina scored his only international goal on the way to Argentina's third World Cup title. AFP

'Ticket allocation for Iran fans revoked'

Tehran: FIFA has revoked the ticket allocation for Iran fans at the team's three World Cup games in the United States, the national soccer federation claimed Tuesday. Each federation for the 48 teams taking part is entitled to receive and distribute 8% of stadium capacity for each of its games at the World Cup, adding up to several thousands of tickets.

Just days before Iran open their World Cup — on June 15 at the 70,000-seat Los Angeles Rams' stadium in Inglewood against New Zealand — the federation claimed in a statement reported by semi-official state media that it was now unable to provide any tickets to its supporters. The claim adds to the turmoil between Iranian soccer, FIFA and tournament co-host the US, which began military attacks on Iran on Feb. 28.

FIFA has total authority over ticketing operations at the World Cup, yet the Iranian soccer body suggested "the United States has now taken steps to obstruct the presence of Iranian supporters at the stadiums."

"This incident raises serious questions about the influence of non-sporting and political considerations on the organization of the world's biggest football event," the Iranian soccer federation said. FIFA was approached for comment.

Iran's team is now based in the Mexican border city of Tijuana instead of its pre-war plan to train in Tucson, Arizona. It is the team's seventh appearance at a men's World Cup.

Eyes on the Ball: Chairman of FIFA referees committee Pierluigi Collina conducts referee's training in Miami on Tuesday

Some federation officials also have been denied visas to enter the US, where Iran also play Belgium in Inglewood on June 21 and then Egypt in Seattle on June 26. Federations of World Cup teams typically sell their ticket allocation to the most loyal fans who attend games at home and away.

"However, the allocation granted to Iran's football federation has been withdrawn, and under the current circumstances the federation is unable to offer even a single ticket to national team supporters," the federation said.

Iran residents were subject to a travel ban by the US government since last year and were unlikely to get entry visas for the World Cup. It was unclear how many tickets in Iran's allocation were sold since the tournament draw was made in December to the country's diaspora including in the US.

If Iranian tickets have been revoked, FIFA would have just days to sell about 5,600 tickets for the Iran-New Zealand game on Monday. AP

ALL-BRAZILIAN LINEUP TO REFEREE OPENING GAME IN MEXICO CITY

Mexico City: Brazilian referee Wilton Sampaio will take charge of the opening match of the World Cup between Mexico and South Africa, leading a three-man Brazil team for the curtain-raiser in Mexico City.

Compatriots Bruno Pires and Bruno Boschilia will be Sampaio's assistants in Thursday's Group A inaugural clash at the Estadio Azteca.

Sampaio also officiated matches at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and was part of the video assistant referee (VAR) team at the 2018 edition in Russia. FIFA has assembled a record pool of match officials — 52 referees and 88 assistant referees — for the 48-team tournament. The United States has denied entry to one referee, however - Omar Abdulkadir Artan of Somalia - who had been expected to be the first Somali to officiate at a match in the World Cup.

Referee appointments for each game are typically announced two to three days in advance. REUTERS

Platini files criminal, civil cases against FIFA, Infantino over 2015 saga

Geneva: Former UEFA president Michel Platini has launched civil and criminal legal proceedings in France against FIFA and its current president Gianni Infantino over corruption allegations in 2015 that ended his bid to lead the organisation. A criminal complaint filed in Paris accuses Infantino, former FIFA legal director Marco Villiger and former audit committee chairman Domenico Scala of malicious prosecution and influence peddling. AFP

WANNA BE STARTIN' SOMETHIN'

A total of 891 players are expected to make their World Cup debut at the 2026 edition. Rayson Tennyson lists some of the leading youngsters set to make their mark...

LAMINE YAMAL, 18

Poised to make his World Cup debut as Spain's most exciting young talent. He announced himself at Euro 2024, delivering a semifinal goal against France and supplying four assists as Spain lifted the trophy. Only 18, Yamal faces the biggest litmus test in football, to remain free of injuries. The club controlled his conditioning and match exposure, ensuring he is not overused before being released for national duty. That restriction could shape how Luis de la Fuente deploys him, balancing impact with recovery.

Country SPAIN
Left wing/Forward
Matches 23
Goals 6
Assists 12

ERLING HAALAND, 25

The Manchester City striker has a fearsome record for Norway — 55 goals in 48 appearances — and he finally has the stage that previously kept slipping away. Norway arrive at the World Cup for the first time since 1998. Haaland's decisive goals powered their qualification. His first taste of the competition will come in the opening group match against Iraq on June 17. Norway's path is demanding, with France and Senegal also in Group I, but Haaland's finishing makes him a threat to any defence.

Country NORWAY
Forward
Matches 49
Goals 55
Assists 5

ENDRICK, 19

Arrives at the World Cup carrying the weight of Brazil's next gen. Whether he embraces it or not is the talk of all Brazil. Already capped as a teenager, the striker is already well-known for his pace and poise. His rise from a Palmeiras prodigy to global attention was built on relentless goals. In Brazil's opening matches, his debut minutes showed why Carlo Ancelotti trusts him: sharp movement and timely finishes. Endrick became part of Brazil's first teenage World Cup presence since Ronaldo in 1994. His four goals for Brazil have triggered a lot of expectation.

Country BRAZIL
Centre Forward
Matches 17
Goals 4
Assists 1

DESIRE DOUE, 21

One of the youngest in France squad, yet highly influential. He created the opening goal and scored twice in the 2025 Champions League final as PSG drubbed Inter Milan 5-0 to claim their first continental title. This is only his second stint with the senior national team after winning bronze in the UEFA Nations Cup last June, just months after his debut. Desire helped France win the 2022 U-17 European Championship and later earned silver at the 2024 Paris Olympics. After driving PSG to become only the second French Champions League winner, he was named Young Player of the Season. At 23, his elder brother, Guela, will also be making his World Cup debut this year, representing Ivory Coast.

Country FRANCE
Midfielder/winger
Matches 6
Goals 1
Assists 0

Kerala sees nearly 87% rise in divorce petitions in six yrs

2025 Saw Nearly 2,937 Pleas Monthly

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Kochi: Family court data in the state show a marked shift in attitudes towards marriage, with divorce petitions rising by nearly 87% over the past six years. This increase reflects changing social norms, growing financial independence and a greater willingness among couples to leave unhappy relationships. Recurring incidents of deaths linked to domestic discord further highlight the social significance of this shift.

According to data obtained via RTI, divorce petitions filed in the state rose steadily from 18,886 in 2020 to 25,020 in 2021 and 30,781 in 2022, before climbing to 33,535 in 2023. Though the figure dipped slightly to 30,647 in 2024, it surged to 35,238 in 2025.

As many as 1,74,107 divorce petitions were filed between 2020 and 2025, averaging about 2,418 petitions a month. In 2025 alone, family courts received nearly 2,937 petitions every month. Not all petitions resulted in separation, as many disputes were settled through mediation and counselling.

Between 2020 and 2025, Thiruvananthapuram recorded the highest monthly average of divorce petitions at 322, followed by Kollam (294), Ernakulam (289) and Thrissur (282), reflecting higher levels of urbanisation, education and socio-economic development. Wayanad consistently reported the fewest petitions, averaging just 41 a month during the six-year period. Kasaragod, Idukki and Malappuram also recorded comparatively low averages of 63, 86 and 111 petitions a month respectively.

The data do not indicate whether husbands or wives initiate divorce proceedings more often, but legal experts point to a combination of factors behind the rising numbers. Lekha Suresh, an advocate said: "People nowadays are not concerned about the stigma associated with divorce. Besides, women do not want to endure abuse at the hands of their husbands or other family members. They prefer to walk away from toxic marital relationships, unlike in previous decades."

"Many point to the financial stability of women. However, if a married woman earns money but is forced to hand it over to her husband and seek his permission to spend it, that is not independence. Women today are increasingly conscious of their independence," she said.

T'PURAM HIGHEST, WAYANAD LOWEST

- Divorce petitions in the state rose from **18,886** in 2020 to **35,238** in 2025
- A total of **1,74,107** petitions were filed during 2020–2025, averaging **2,418 a month**
- T'puram recorded the highest monthly average among districts at **322** petitions, followed by Kollam **(294)**, Ernakulam **(289)** and Thrissur **(282)**
- Wayanad recorded the lowest monthly average at **41** petitions

> People nowadays are not concerned about the stigma associated with divorce. Besides, women do not want to endure abuse at the hands of their husbands or other family members... — LEKHA SURESH, SENIOR ADVOCATE IN KERALA HC

PoK 'abuses': India seeks accountability

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt slammed Pakistan for fake news blaming India for the ongoing violent protests in PoK, urging the international community to hold Pakistan accountable for its "misdeeds and abuses".

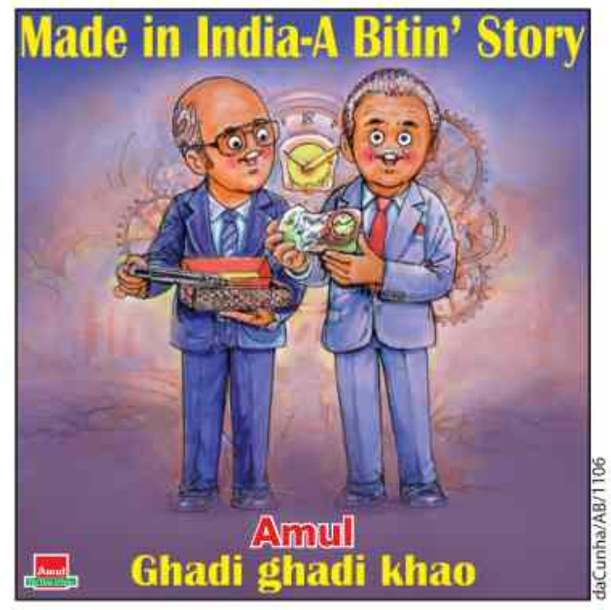
Ministry of external affairs said it had taken note of a pattern of fake news and videos emanating from Pakistan. "It is a desperate attempt by Pakistan to cover-up its own failings and deflect attention away from its human rights abuses. There are reports of severe police brutality in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in which several protestors have been killed and many injured," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. "We hope the international community will hold Pakistan accountable for its misdeeds and abuses," he added.

India's reaction came a day after Pakistan's human rights body said that it is "deeply alarmed" by the ongoing violence in PoK during violent clashes. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) also expressed serious concerns about the so-called regional govt's decision to proscribe the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) under anti-terrorism legislation.

AFP

There are reports of severe police brutality in which several have been killed and many injured, the MEA said

JAAC has long been demanding the abolition of 12 "refugee seats" in the so-called legislative assembly in PoK. The seats are reserved for refugees from Kashmir who settled in Pakistan after 1947. JAAC alleges that these seats were often used by mainstream Pakistani political parties to influence the formation of govts in Muzaffarabad.



NMC vacancies delaying med admissions: Amicus

New Delhi: A Supreme Court-appointed amicus curiae has blamed persistent vacancies at National Medical Commission (NMC) and govt's failure to fill key statutory posts for recurring delays in medical admissions, approvals, inspections and appeals, saying lapses have disrupted academic calendars and left students bearing the brunt of the system's shortcomings, **reports Anuja Jaiswal**.

In his report to SC, the amicus, senior advocate Maninder Singh, said delays in approvals, inspections, appeals and counselling have become a recurring feature despite years of reform efforts.

Admission schedules are routinely stretching far beyond prescribed timelines, it said, pointing out that for the 2025-26 academic session, PG admissions reportedly continued till Feb 2026, and UG admissions till Dec 2025.

"Most of the sufferers in these delays are the students," the submission noted. Medical seats remain unfilled because approvals, renewals and counselling processes are not completed within stipulated timelines, the report stated. It noteD that permissions and renewals for MBBS courses continued till Nov 2025, despite the academic session having commenced on Sept 1, 2025. It also citeD instances where appeals relating to PG courses and seat increases became infructuous as counselling processes moved ahead before decisions could be taken.

WHAT AMICUS SAID

- **Medical seats remain unfilled** as approvals, renewals and counselling overshoot timelines
- **Inspection reports and regulatory decisions no longer made public** despite statutory requirement
- 'Unfortunate' that regulator of medical education **operating without office-bearers**

"It is very unfortunate that an authority responsible for regulating standards of medical education in the country and performing various functions under the NMC Act, 2019 is functioning without office bearers," it stated.

The amicus links many of these delays to persistent vacancies within the regulator and its autonomous boards. It stated the absence of regular office-bearers has contributed to delays in framing regulations, processing applications, granting permissions and deciding appeals.

The report stated that six years after the NMC Act came into force, several statutory positions across the commission and its autonomous boards remain vacant. While the Act envisages multiple presidents and members across the boards, several positions remain unfilled. The report also noted that the Centre has failed to fill several key positions envisaged under the law, including the post of secretary for the prescribed tenure.

Survey: Delhi men are now getting in shape

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New Delhi: At a time when obesity is rising steadily across India, Delhi stands out for an unexpected reason. The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) shows the share of men aged 15-49 who are overweight or obese has declined in the national capital, even as obesity among women and diabetes indicators among both sexes continue to rise.

The proportion of Delhi men with a BMI of 25 kg/m² or higher fell from 38% in NFHS-5 (2019-21) to 34.8% in 2023-24. In contrast, obesity among women rose from 41.4% to 42.7%. The findings make Delhi an exception to the broader national trend. Across India, obesity has risen among both men and women, with prevalence rising from 22.9% to 27.3% among men and from 24% to 30.7% among women. Yet the apparent improvement among Delhi's men overshadows a growing public health concern. Blood sugar levels have climbed sharply among both men and women, suggesting that metabolic health is deteriorating despite mixed trends in body weight.

"The rise in blood sugar levels is a significant trend because it points towards increasing insulin resistance and a growing risk of diabetes. Metabolic health can be affected even in individuals who are not severely overweight, making regular screening important," said Dr S K Wangnoo, consultant, endocrinology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital. Experts say the gap between obesity and diabetes trends shows BMI alone has limits as a health measure. "This apparent disconnect highlights the importance of phenotype: while overall body weight may decline, metabolic health can deteriorate substantially," said Dr Anoop Misra, chairman, Fortis Centre for Diabetes, Obesity and Cholesterol Disorders.

Ahmedabad second most vulnerable world city facing heat risk: Study

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Chennai: People in Ahmedabad are among those most vulnerable to rising temperatures globally, with the city ranking second among cities facing the highest heat risk, according to a University of Oxford study. Nagpur comes in at fourth on the risk list while Madurai is ranked seventh. Chennai occupies the 50th place.

The study found the risk was driven not just by high temperatures but also demographic and socio-economic factors, limited access to cooling technologies and ecological buffers such as tree cover. This means some places hotter than Ahmedabad or Nagpur face a lesser risk because people may have more green cover or access to air-conditioning.

Published in Sustainable Cities and Society, the study assessed heat risk across 205 cities with populations exceeding one million. "In many major cities, particularly across Asia and Africa, extreme heat coincides with high vulnerability and limited coping capacity. This combination can substantially increase heat risk and, in some cases, have life-threatening consequences," said corresponding author Nethmi Jayaratne Kariyawasam.

Overall, 14 Indian cities featured among 50 cities facing the highest heat risk.

Globally, Al Basrah in Iraq ranked as the city facing the highest heat risk, followed by Ahmedabad, Bamako, Nagpur, Quezon City, Baghdad, Madurai, Faisalabad, Lagos and Hyderabad in Pakistan.

PTI

The southwest monsoon has gathered strength over Kerala, bringing widespread rainfall across several districts

Southwest monsoon covers north Bengal, NE

Kolkata/Shillong: The southwest monsoon, which set over Kerala on June 4, marking the beginning of the four-month-long rainy season in India, advanced into North Bengal and the northeastern states on Tuesday.

North Bengal is the gateway to the eight northeastern states.

The weather office said conditions remain favourable for further advance of the monsoon into eastern, central and western India in the next four to five days. In a bulletin issued on Tuesday, the IMD said, "The monsoon has further advanced into the remaining parts of northeastern states, entire Sikkim and some parts of sub-Himalayan West Bengal." It has forecast heavy rain in the north Bengal districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar till June 13. PTI

ED raids spark fresh skirmish between AAP & BJP in Punjab

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jalandhar/Ludhiana/Chandigarh: ED on Tuesday conducted searches in a money-laundering probe allegedly involving Punjab minister Sanjeev Arora, triggering a sharp exchange between AAP and BJP. While CM Bhagwant Mann and AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal accused the BJP-led Centre of using ED to "target Hindu traders", BJP shot back by alleging AAP was giving it a communal colour.

The agency searched locations in Jalandhar and Ludhiana in Punjab, and Bareilly and Noida in Uttar Pradesh, including at Hampton Sky Realty Ltd, a company linked to Arora.

Among those searched was Jalandhar-based businessman Amit Bajaj, known for his proximity to AAP and a major contractor for Jalandhar Municipal Corporation.

AAP reacted with fury. "ED party is again conducting raids on Hindu traders in Punjab today. ED party is harassing small Hindu traders in Punjab," Kejriwal posted on X.

Birthday cake horror: Toddler swallows hidden metal pins

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: What was meant to be a joyful third birthday celebration for Reyaansh turned into 48 hours of trauma for his family after he unknowingly swallowed two metal pins hidden inside chocolate bowling pins decorating his birthday cake.

For biology teacher Sneha Shelar of Hiranandani Estate in Thane, the incident has left emotional scars long after her son safely passed the metal pieces naturally. "My son's birthday cake became the worst nightmare of my life," she said.

On May 31, the family celebrated Reyaansh's birthday eve with a Spiderman-themed party and a customised bowling alley cake. "It was everything I dreamed of — the decorations, the cake and our entire family, basically everything he loves," she recalled. But the next day, the child's actual birthday, the family was in hospital instead of celebrating. Shelar alleged that a Thane-based bakery had inserted metal wires inside the chocolate bowling pins as scaffolding without warning the family, despite being informed that the cake was meant for toddlers.

BITTER-SWEET: The danger came to light only after older children found metal rods inside the decorations and alerted their parents

The danger came to light only after older children found metal rods inside the decorations and alerted their parents. Fearing Reyaansh had swallowed them, the family rushed him for an X-ray the next morning. "The scan showed two metal pins lodged in his small intestine," his mother said. Doctors at Jupiter Hospital advised against surgery because the pins had already reached the intestine and recommended waiting for them to pass naturally. "Reyaansh is safe now. Both wires passed naturally after 48 hours," she said.

Lottery baron Santiago Martin moves HC against asset attachment

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Chennai: Lottery baron Santiago Martin, his wife and AIADMK MLA Leema Rose, daughter Daisy Aadhav Arjuna (wife of Tamil Nadu's PWD minister Aadhav Arjuna), and companies owned by Martin's son and Puducherry MLA Joe Charles have together filed 39 separate petitions in Madras HC, challenging the attachment of their properties worth Rs 456.84 crore byED on charges of money-laundering.

Admitting all 39 petitions, the bench directed ED to respond within six weeks. According to the ED, the proceeds of the crime were to the tune of nearly Rs 910.3 crore.

Based on a CBI chargesheet dated Feb 3, 2014, ED had carried out searches and seizures at the premises associated with the family on May 11-12, 2023 under the PMLA.

CBI had filed charges under IPC sections 120B and 420, and Lotteries (LR) Act, alleging that the lottery distributor and other persons had cheated and caused wrongful loss to the state of Sikkim by entering into an alleged conspiracy to violate the provisions of the LR Act.

INDIA DIGEST

OMCs raise ATF price by around 10%

Flying is set to get more expensive, with oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Tuesday increasing aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices by around 10% under the new price-stabilisation regime. The only relief is that ATF, which accounts for 60% of an airline's operating costs now, will remain frozen at this level for the next three years for domestic and international flights of Indian carriers which opt for the new mechanism.

Cong takes back office after 10yrs, loses in 24 hrs
A central Kolkata pavement party office became the centre of a storm as Congress workers reclaimed the premises after over a decade, only to lose a chunk of it within 24 hours in a demolition drive against illegal structures. Congress workers said the office in Ward 44 was forcibly taken over by TMC. They took it back Monday.

Kidney complications after deliveries at Raj hosp
Rajasthan's health department Tuesday sought an urgent report from Bikaner authorities after six women, aged 20 to 27, developed acute kidney-related complications following deliveries at PBM Hospital and had to be shifted to ICU.

18 policemen hurt in violence over demolition
At least 19 people, including 18 police officials, were injured in stone pelting by locals protesting against a late-night demolition drive by Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), Maharashtra, targeting 11 unauthorised structures — five mosques, five temples, and an akhada (wrestling facility) attached to a temple — in Chikhali's Kudalwadi area on Monday.

Two killed in elephant attacks in Chhattisgarh
An elephant separated from its herd trampled to death a 65-year-old man and his wife (56) near their village home in Rajpur forest range of Chhattisgarh's Balrampur district on Tuesday morning, raising the death toll in elephant attacks in the state to four in two days.

Non-veg eatery on Del-Haridwar NH vandalised
Tension flared on a stretch of the Delhi-Haridwar National Highway in Muzaffarnagar ahead of the annual kanwar yatra after members of Hindu Raksha Dal allegedly vandalised signboards and burned banners at a non-vegetarian eatery. The incident took place at a dhaba near Sisona village under Chhapar police station limits.

HC orders evictions in four reserve forests of Assam

Guwahati: Gauhati HC has ordered eviction drives in four centuries-old reserve forests of Assam, giving hundreds of families of illegal settlers a 30-day window to remove their belongings and make alternative arrangements.

The forests are Lutumai in Nagaon, Jamuna Moudanga in Hojai, South Nambor & Doyang in Golaghat, and Borpani in Nagaon districts — some of which were notified as far back as 1917.

Justice Devashis Baruah Monday directed state govt officials to take active steps for removing petitioners and all encroachers from reserve forests if they fail to vacate within the 30-day window. TNN

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THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF BANGALORE TIMES |

PRESIDENT TRUMP BLAMES IRAN FOR DOWNING AN APACHE HELICOPTER NEAR THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ AND SAYS US MUST RESPOND TO THE ATTACK 18

Illegal fireworks warehouse in Raj blows up, 8 killed

Eight people were killed when a fire triggered explosions at an illegal fireworks warehouse in Jaipur's densely populated Kho Nagoriyan area Tuesday. Sources said some victims had suffered burns on nearly 95% of their bodies. One victim was charred beyond recognition. Cops suspect the site was used to store fireworks while manufacturing was done elsewhere. P 8

India to benefit in next AI phase, says SAP CEO

Christian Klein, CEO of the $40-billion German software giant SAP, said the next AI winners will not be those with the biggest models, but those that teach AI how businesses work. On a visit to Delhi Tuesday, Klein said that shift could benefit India's IT industry, whose strength lies in business process expertise. P 19

21 AIADMK MLAs spared, action on 4 who defected

Tamil Nadu assembly speaker J C D Prabhakar said no disqualification proceedings would be started against 21 AIADMK MLAs who backed the TVK govt during the confidence motion. However, Prabhakar said the process to initiate action against four AIADMK MLAs who had quit to join TVK has begun. TNN

Cong raps T'gana CM for 'Hitler inspiration'

Congress has ticked off CM Revanth Reddy for saying Telangana's anti-encroachment task force was inspired by Hitler, calling it out of line with Congress' ethos. KC Venugopal told **TOI**, "It is not acceptable". TNN

Dalit, 18, dies after assault by girl's kin

An 18-year-old Dalit student died after he was allegedly assaulted by the family of an upper-caste girl he had befriended in Tehri Garhwal. Nails had been driven into Ketan Lal's legs in the attack, his father said. P 8

'Breakthrough' blast at Zoji La

Minister Nitin Gadkari pressed a button for the final "breakthrough" blast at Zoji La, removing the last hurdle and joining two ends of 14km corridor that will link Kashmir and Ladakh in all seasons. FLAP INSIDE

Gig workers to be regd on govt portal

In a measure to ensure benefits for gig workers, govt has asked aggregators, including Swiggy, Zomato, Uber, Blinkit, Ola, Rapido and Zepto, to complete their workers' integration with e-Shram portal by June 21. P 17

CID searches Mamata's premises, 'nil' seizure

Probe Into 'Forgery' Claim In LoP Choice

Zeeshan Jawed, Sarthak Ganguly & Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

Kolkata: Signgate probe reached TMC ground zero Tuesday as a 30-member CID team searched a party office adjoining former CM Mamata Banerjee's residence at 30B Harish Chatterjee Road in south Kolkata's Kalighat and left empty-handed after a 105-minute operation, handing over a "Nil" seizure list.

Investigators also searched TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's office on Camac Street in central Kolkata. Abhishek skipped a third CID summons and has moved Calcutta HC challenging the proceedings.

CID sources said the Kalighat office is central to the probe into alleged forged signatures on a May 6 letter sent to the assembly speaker proposing Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay's name as leader of opposition. Several TMC MLAs — now part of the rebel bloc backing BJP-led NDA — have alleged their signatures were forged on the letter.

Around 3.30pm, a black SUV carrying CID officers arrived outside Banerjee's residence, where former TMC Rajya Sabha MP Subhasish Chakraborty blocked entry for about 45 minutes, arguing he was acting as voluntary custodian of property while the occupants were in Delhi.

▶Search operation, P 14

ARRESTS, FIR AMID EXODUS ROW

Photo: IANS

CID team at Mamata Banerjee's Kalighat residence on Tuesday

- Former Bengal minister **Ujjal Biswas** arrested for allegedly **stocking tarpaulin** meant for public distribution
- FIR against former minister **Indranil Sen**, his wife and others for allegedly running **financial racket linked to Durga Puja**
- LIC seeks help to **reclaim land worth ₹30cr**, allegedly encroached by Puja organiser **linked to ex-min Aroop Biswas**
- Former MLA of TMC and former civic corpn chief **Sabyasachi Dutta arrested on charges of extortion**
- If rebel MPs have the numbers, **why haven't they merged with BJP, ask TMC netas.** Bengal BJP chief says rebels won't be accommodated, **BJP not a 'sankirtan group'**

KBG takes B'luru devpt portfolio battle to Delhi, will meet Cong top brass

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Bengaluru: Battle for Bengaluru shifts to Delhi. Senior minister **Krishna Byre Gowda**, who has sought clarity over pared Bengaluru development portfolio, has decided to meet party bosses seeking full bouquet of Bengaluru civic administration before taking charge of the high-profile department.

Currently, Bengaluru planning agencies are with chief minister DK Shivakumar. This means having two power centres; or, the CM will have final say on critical civic infrastructure projects.

KBG's Delhi trip comes as a serious concern to the CM, who is busy dousing discontentment among ministers about portfolios. The minister reached Delhi on Tuesday morning, a day ahead of the CM's arrival. The minister is expected to meet KC Venugopal, among other leaders, to push his case. Along with KBG, several other MLAs are also camping in Delhi.

▶Cabinet berths, P 4

CM retains Kanugolu as his chief adviser

Sunil Kanugolu will remain chief adviser to the chief minister. Credited as a key strategist behind Congress' 2023 Karnataka win, Kanugolu has been granted cabinet rank with the perks that come with the position. The appointment is seen as a high command diktat. P 5

Cong pick Natarajan's RS nomination rejected, BJP close to 3/3 in MP

Bhopal: Congress candidate Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination for the June 18 Rajya Sabha polls in MP was rejected Tuesday after scrutiny, turning election arithmetic on its head as BJP closed in on winning all three seats unopposed. Returning officer A P Singh rejected the nomination after BJP objected that Natarajan failed to disclose details of a pending case in Telangana, **reports Amarjeet Singh**.

▶ MP Congress MLAs' B'luru trip grounded, P 7

Congress branded the move "illegal" & alleged BJP had engineered a "constitutional conspiracy" to grab a third RS seat despite lacking numbers. Under election law, EC cannot overturn a returning officer's decision during scrutiny.

The stakes had already been running high after BJP sprang a surprise by fielding Mahesh Kewat as a third candidate. BJP, with 164 MLAs in the 230-member assembly, is comfortably placed to bag two seats. A candidate needs 58 votes to win, leaving Kewat dependent on surplus votes, cross-voting or abstentions.

▶Missing details, P 14

J'khand candidate's nomination on hold?

The nomination of NDA-backed Parimal Nathwani in Jharkhand was "put on hold" Tuesday after objections by Congress. The RO has asked Nathwani for a response by 11am Wednesday. An aide of Nathwani, however, later claimed the issue had been resolved. TNN

Starlink nod paused over Iran war use: Report

India has effectively frozen approvals for Elon Musk's Starlink to begin commercial operations, due to concerns over the use of its satellite terminals in the Iran war, according to people familiar with the matter.

Security agencies have withheld the final clearances Starlink needs to launch, they said. Reports that Starlink terminals were in use during the West Asia conflict despite the service not being licensed in Iran have heightened fears in Delhi about its ability to control a US-based internet operator during geopolitical tensions, they said.

The impasse has also stalled a satellite-spectrum pricing proposal required for any commercial launch, whether by Starlink or its Indian competitors. DoT has finalised the framework, but it has not been sent to the Cabinet, the people said. BLOOMBERG

41-yr-old drugged, gang-raped; minor among 10 nabbed

Davanagere: Six days after a 41-year-old woman was drugged, forced to consume a spiked drink and sexually assaulted in Davanagere district, police Tuesday arrested 10 persons, including a minor, on charges of gang rape, **reports Basavaraj Maralihalli**.

Police said the accused allegedly took her photos and made videos of the ghastly crime. Police seized bikes and mobile phones from the suspects, who are in the 20-30 age group. The incident took place under Basavapatna police station limits in Channagiri taluk of Davanagere district.

The survivor's family filed a complaint four days later after discovering that her photos and videos were being circulated on mobile phones, police said.

▶ To brother's house, P 4

KA-50 to Z-026-LB: B'luru SUV goes Dutch

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Bengaluru: Most expatriates leave India with a few keepsakes and plenty of memories. Dutch aerospace engineer Rob Bosgraaf took home something far more unusual from Bengaluru — the Indian sports utility vehicle (SUV) that had carried him and his wife on many road trips across the country.

Now, it sports a Dutch number plate instead of a Karnataka registration, (KA50MA5474 to Z-026-LB) but some things haven't changed. Today, it continues its adventures on European roads, and a small Ganesha idol sits on the dashboard. The SUV's journey from India to the Netherlands is a story of adventure, attachment and cross-continental travel.

Dutch aerospace engineer Rob Bosgraaf with his wife Marieke de Moel. He said: "We travelled thousands of kilometres in the Thar across India & created so many memories with it. That made it worth bringing home"

Rob moved to Bengaluru on work. A temporary assignment soon evolved into a deeper connection with India and an ambitious road-travel dream. "We lived in India from 2019 to 2022. We are sailors by nature and used to travelling long distances without much support. At some point, we thought, instead of sailing, could we do something similar with a car?" Rob told **TOI**.

The idea transformed into a full-fledged overlanding project. Rob purchased a Mahindra Thar and modified it extensively by adding steel bumpers, a roof rack, a winch, rock sliders, a rooftop tent and even a compact kitchen setup. Over the next few years, Rob and his wife drove extensively along the country's northern and eastern borders, ventured near Bhutan and Nepal, and undertook two six-week road expeditions. "We wanted to see as much of India as possible before leaving," he said.

▶₹10L to shift SUV, P 2

Why India missed the $5 trillion GDP target

In nominal terms, which includes inflation, India's GDP almost doubled from Rs 189 lakh crore in 2018-19 to Rs 346 lakh crore in 2025-26. That's an annual growth of about 9% in rupee terms. Yet, India still fell short of the $5 trillion-economy target set by BJP in its 2019 poll manifesto. A major reason was the exchange rate. Over this period, the rupee weakened substantially against the dollar, reducing the size of India's economy when measured in US dollars. **Atul Thakur** explains what happened, why the rupee-dollar gap mattered, and when India could cross the $5-trillion mark

Rupee GDP Grew Fast, Despite Covid

Nominal GDP grew in double digits in four of the seven years between 2018-19 and 2025-26. Growth was 10.6% in 2018-19. The economy shrank during the Covid year, but then bounced back with nearly 19% nominal growth in 2021-22. Growth has slowed in the estimates for the past two years, but the overall rupee expansion remains strong

The Exchange Rate Made A $1 Trillion Difference

GDP growth rate, measured in US dollars, was 5.5% a year during the seven-year period, compared with 9% in rupee terms. The reason is exchange rate. Between 2018-19 and 2025-26, rupee weakened from an average of Rs 69.9/$ to about Rs 88.30. At the 2025-26 exchange rate, GDP was about $3.9 trillion, a gap of over $1 trillion

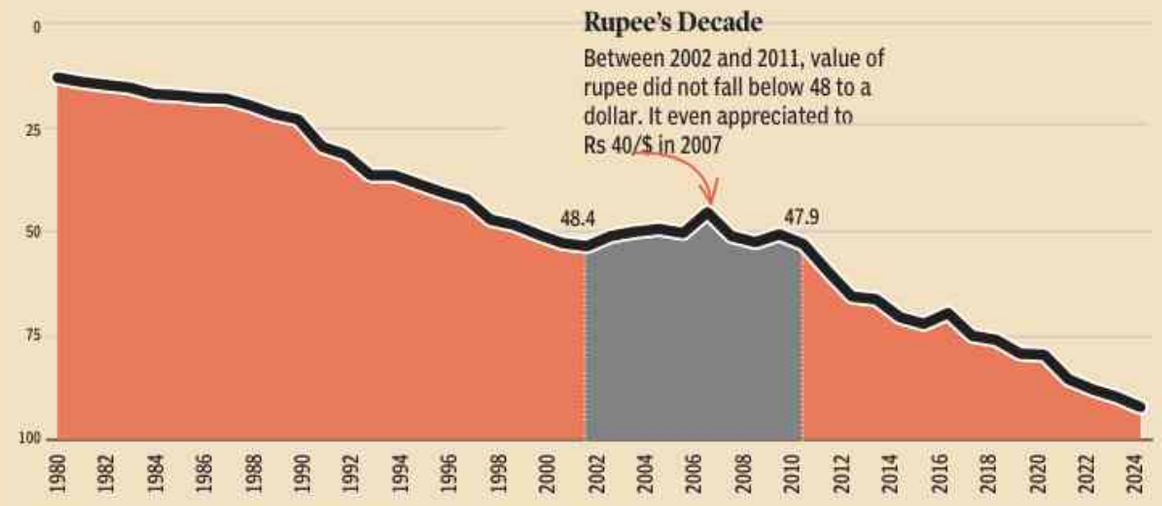
GDP growth rate in rupee & dollar terms

'Stolen' Trillion
Had the rupee remained at its 2018-19 average exchange rate, and the economy kept growing at the same rate, India's 2025-26 GDP would have been about $4.95 trillion

Rupee depreciation and dollar loss of GDP

Has The Rupee Ever Stayed Stable? Yes

The rupee has not always moved in one direction. Over the past 45 years, there have been periods when the exchange rate was broadly stable and even phases when the rupee appreciated. Between 1998 and 2011, the annual average exchange rate largely stayed between Rs 40 and Rs 50 to the dollar. It crossed Rs 48 in 2002, but later appreciated to around Rs 40 in 2007

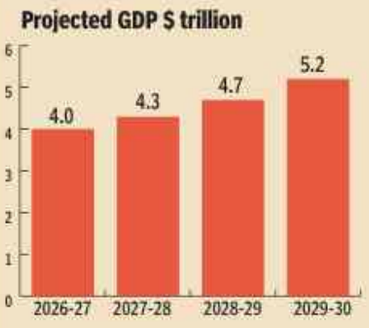


When Could India Cross $5 Trillion?

That depends on both growth and the exchange rate. Under a constant exchange-rate scenario, India crosses the $5 trillion mark in 2029-30. If the rupee depreciates at the same pace as it did between 2018-19 and 2025-26, the milestone is pushed to 2032-33. If the rupee appreciates at the pace seen between 2002 and 2007, India crosses $5 trillion earlier, in 2028-29

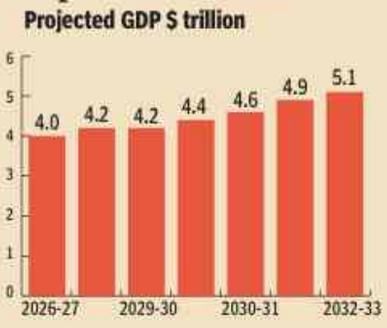
If rupee stays at constant level

Projected GDP $ trillion



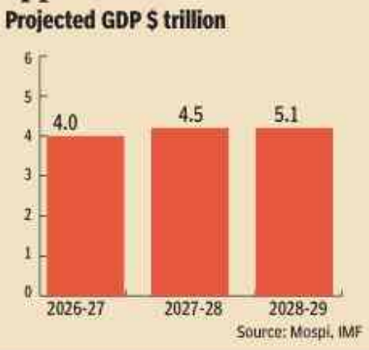
If rupee depreciates further

Projected GDP $ trillion



If rupee appreciates

Projected GDP $ trillion



Source: Mospi, IMF

Final blast removes last Zoji La tunnel barrier

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Zoji La (Minamarg): Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday pressed a button triggering the final "breakthrough" blast in the Zoji La tunnel, removing the last three metres of rock and linking the two ends of the nearly 14km corridor that will provide all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh.

With J&K CM Omar Abdullah, LG Manoj Sinha and officials from Ladakh by his side to witness the historic moment, Gadkari described the tunnel as more than a transportation project, calling it a gateway to development for the region.

An hour after the breakthrough, executing agency Megha Engineering & Infra Ltd allowed around 50 vehicles carrying officials and journalists to make a one-time journey from Minamarg in Ladakh to Baltal in J&K through the tunnel.

Bilal Bahadur

The 14km Zoji La tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh

The full structure, however, is still two years away from being ready for regular traffic, though Gadkari indicated MEIL could complete the work sooner. "I am pleased that 80% of those who worked on this project were locals," the minister said.

Recalling his days as BJP chief, Gadkari said residents of Ladakh had told him the region remained cut off for nearly six months every year due to harsh winters. "I was deeply moved by their hardships. It became clear to me that a tunnel was essential," he added.

Gadkari stressed that the project gained momentum only after Modi govt came to office. He recalled that tenders had been attempted four times without a final decision before he took charge of highways ministry. "When the project came up for approval, estimated cost had reached Rs 12,000 crore. I am happy to say that after completing all work, we expect to finish it under Rs 7,000 crore," he said.

Omar said the project would transform daily life by improving access to education and healthcare while boosting tourism and trade. LG Sinha described it as a lifeline for the two regions and a vital strategic asset for the armed forces.